

Homework Policy

Our aims:

We have formulated a Primary School Homework Policy to better guide teachers, students and parents by providing information so that we can create a suitable atmosphere and support for successful homework.

Our fundamental belief is that homework provides a golden opportunity to augment and enhance work done at school and further fosters home-school links.

1. We also believe that homework:

- provides students with the opportunity to accept their responsibility for independent study and to develop and strengthen their personal study habits and skills
- should be worth doing and related to class teaching by being purposeful and arousing the desire to discover and learn (for example, by reading more widely and deeply in a topic), to consolidate work already introduced in class and to practise skills already learned at school
- should involve active and thoughtful work. (Even in committing facts to memory, students should be taught to work in a thoughtful way and not be required to perform repetitive tasks in an unthinking way.)
- should be given regularly and should be properly checked and discussed so that students do learn something (e.g. in the Early Years Programme this may mean that a parent signs and comments in the Blue Communication Book each night when their child reads and discusses the Home Reader)
- should be explicit and clearly defined so that students clearly understand what is required of them, however, it is the responsibility of the student to pay close attention in class so he or she is fully aware of the requirements
- should be within the students' capabilities

2. We believe that there are several responsibilities:

- it is the responsibility of the teacher to explain outcomes
- it is the responsibility of the student to hand completed homework in on time
- it is the responsibility of the parents to support their child's achievement of the outcomes but not do it for them

3. Thus, homework may be given for one or more of the following purposes:

- reinforcement
- opportunity for parents and students to work together
- practice
- completion of work from class

- tuning-in, research or inquiry task for units
- independent work
- to begin a task to then be incorporated into classroom learning
- development of personal skills such as organisational and time management

Organisation

At the International School of Bucharest all homework is communicated to parents using Educare, the school's online communication tool. Parents and teachers can communicate easily with each other via Educare regarding any aspect of the child's homework or progress.

Reception

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, the students will begin to bring home a reading book that supports their phonics teaching in school. Reading records are used for parents to communicate reading done at home. Homework using 'Education City' is also provided weekly to enhance the learning opportunities of the students.

Key Stage 1

Homework for students in Key Stage 1 is sent home every Friday in their homework folder. Homework links to what the children have learnt that week in school. The written homework consists of a piece of Maths, a piece of English based work and a piece of Science or Humanities work.

Reading is encouraged daily. We recommend that all the children in Key Stage 1 read for at least ten minutes per day at home. Reading records are used for parents to communicate reading done at home. Students are also provided with a weekly set of spellings to learn according to their learning needs.

Parents are provided with guidance on how to listen to their child read and on how to help them learn to read and spell key words.

Homework using 'Education City' is also provided weekly to enhance the learning opportunities of all our students.

Key Stage 2

Homework in KS2 is sent home daily. During the week the children will be expected to practice their spellings and mental maths daily, and receive two English, two Maths and one Science or Humanities based homework. These homework tasks may be paper based, Education City or similar website activities, and can also include longer projects.

The children should not be expected to return homework the following day, a minimum of two nights should be set for each task.

For projects and longer term tasks there will be clear outlines of what is expected, with set focus points

during the time frame of the project.

Romanian and Turkish set weekly homework tasks, and other Specialists can set homework when suitable, especially for Year 6.

Timings

At the International School of Bucharest we suggest the following times for homework:

Years 1 and 2: approximately 20 minutes per day including ten minutes of reading.

Years 3 and 4: approximately 30-45 minutes daily including ten minutes of reading.

Years 5 and 6: approximately 45-60 minutes daily including ten minutes of reading.

Homework tasks should be differentiated and take into consideration the time factor. Setting a single task can mean more able children complete in 10 minutes whilst less able will be working for 2 hours to complete. All children should be working for the same amount of time on their homework and this should be reflected in the activities set.

Monitoring and Reviewing the Policy

Last reviewed February 2015 by the Senior Leadership Team.