



PRIMARY HOMEWORK POLICY

Reviewed: August 2024

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Our aims:

Our Primary School Homework Policy is formulated to guide teachers, students and parents by providing information so that we can create a suitable atmosphere and support for successful homework while appreciating and respecting our diverse international community. Our fundamental belief is that homework provides an opportunity to consolidate and enhance work done at school and further fosters home-school links.

Why give homework?

- It can help to consolidate learning or to prepare for future learning in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables and other key facts;
- It promotes the enjoyment of reading and supports the development of reading skills;
- It utilises the home environment and resources and invites the opportunity for one to one adult time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information;
- It can inform parents about their children's learning;
- It helps to foster good habits of organization and self discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills.

We believe that there are several responsibilities:

- It is the responsibility of the teacher to explain outcomes and make the homework interesting
- It is the responsibility of the student to hand completed homework in on time and to be of an acceptable standard;
- It is the responsibility of the parents to support their child's achievement of the outcomes but not do it for them.

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, we do not wish to create a culture where homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and the weekends and weeknights can sometimes be busy.

We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore or a source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However, if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents. Regular lack of homework could lead to missing Golden Time especially in specialist subjects.

Organisation:

At the International School of Bucharest all homework is communicated to parents using the Educare, Class Dojo or Google Classroom. As an Eco-School we refrain from sending home paper-based homework unless absolutely necessary. Paper homework is sent home in specialist subjects.

Project Based Learning Homework:

Project based learning is an integral part of the curriculum in the Primary School at the International School of Bucharest. Each half term, the children are set a project-based learning homework task that relates to a theme or topic within their year group. The projects require the students to use a number of skills from across the different areas of the curriculum. There will be weekly tasks to be completed and the project will be presented in the last week of the half term. It is anticipated that children will be spending approximately an hour a week on these projects over the half term.

PBL projects are a compulsory part of the curriculum.

Early Years:

In Foundation Stage 2 (FS2), the students will take reading books home starting in term two. The reading books will support the phonics teaching in school. Reading records are used for parents to communicate reading done at home.

Lower Key Stage:

Homework for students in Lower Key Stage Is set once a week, as appropriate and communicated via Educare or Class Dojo. Homework links to what the children have learnt that week in school and will consist of spelling, maths, English as well as project based homework.

Reading is expected daily. We recommend that all the children in Lower Key Stage read for at least fifteen minutes per day at home. Reading Records are used for parents to communicate reading done at home. Reading Records are checked weekly by class teachers/Teaching

Assistants. 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. Children will also be expected to complete a project-based learning homework activity each half term which is anticipated to take an hour a week (20 minutes per day). Homework using 'Education City' and 'Bug Club' will also provide weekly activities to enhance the learning opportunities of all our students.

Upper Key Stage:

Homework in UKS will be set once a week as appropriate via Educare, Class Dojo and Google Classroom and will be discussed with the children during class beforehand. During the week the children will be expected to practice their spellings daily at home and suggested spelling activities are provided on Google Classroom. UKS children will also be expected to read for at least twenty minutes a day. Reading Records are checked weekly by class teachers/ Teaching Assistants. Maths, English and Science homework will be set on a weekly basis using 'Education City'.

Online books will be issued using the online platform, 'Bug Club'. Children will also be expected to complete a project-based learning homework activity each half term which is anticipated to take an hour a week (20 minutes per day). MFL teachers may also set weekly homework tasks, and other Specialists may set homework when suitable.

Additional Homework:

In addition to the weekly/termly homework teachers will send extra "optional" sheets for children to complete. This will consist of a reading comprehension, a writing/grammar piece, a maths activity sheet and a maths problem solving activity. These may be completed by the children if they wish to do so but are not a requirement.

Timing:

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

Years 1 and 2: approximately 25 minutes per day including at least fifteen minutes of reading.

Years 3 and 4: approximately 35 minutes daily including twenty minutes of reading.

Years 5 and 6: approximately 45 minutes daily including twenty minutes of reading.

The time taken to complete homework varies from child to child and therefore the time allocated for homework tasks is what teachers consider a "best fit".

Appendix 1 – Project Based Learning Homework Sample

Year 3 Homework Project – Healthy Eating

This half term in science we will be looking at how leading a healthy lifestyle benefits us. As part of this for our half term project we are asking the children to research, prepare and try healthy snacks. This will require children to do some food preparation at home. This will end in a showcase where parents and students in year 3 can try the food the children have prepared. Below is an overview of the expectations for the project and further details will be given in our weekly bulletins.

Date (Week Beginning)	Activity
15 th January	Children will complete a food journal (given to children) for the week to list what they have eaten and bring it school on Monday 22 nd January. The children will discuss at home what they would like to eat for their own healthy lunches.
22 nd January	Children will look at a variety of different menus and consider how they are presented, the information given, the description of the food served. Children will then create their own menu for their own healthy lunch. They must include a starter, a main dish, a dessert and a drink. This needs to be presented on A4 paper and be a quality piece of work that can be displayed.
29 th January	Children will create a shopping list for the items that they will need for their chosen meal. They will select the correct quantity of each item and where possible identify the cost of the meal. The children will also look at recipes and the format that recipes take.
5 th February	Children will create a recipe for their chosen healthy lunch. They will write, in their best presentation, step by step instructions to make their healthy lunch. The children may make their own small recipe book if they choose.

Date (Week Beginning)	Activity
12 nd February	Children will choose one item from their menu that they will prepare for Friday 16th February. The children will make this at home and bring it to school on Friday 16th February. The children will share this with their class and we will practise evaluation our menu items.
19 th February	Children will prepare all their menu items to bring into school towards the end of the week (Date to be confirmed closer to the time).

Cross Curricular Links

English – Instruction writing, writing for a specific audience, writing good questions.

Maths – Measuring accurately, converting units, using time, using money in real life situations.

Science – Healthy eating.

Humanities – Exploring where our food comes from and the cultural differences in our choices.

Art – Creating aesthetically pleasing and eye-catching menus and recipe books.

Computing – Using ICT to enhance recipe books and menus

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Approved by SLT