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## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **Rationale**

Homework is assigned to reinforce and consolidate classroom learning, promote the development of independent study habits, and strengthen the link between home and school. It provides opportunities for children to practice skills, revise concepts, and engage with their learning outside of school hours. Homework also allows parents to remain informed and involved in their child's education while fostering responsibility and self-discipline in pupils.

The following points should also be noted with regards to homework:

- Set aside a regular time for homework, including adequate time for reading, learning by heart, as well as written work.
- The child should be sitting comfortably at a table in a quiet room free from distractions and interruptions, and should have access to parental support while doing their homework.
- Access to iPads, tablets, phones, etc., should generally be avoided during homework time. However, in some specific instances, the use of technology may be appropriate to support learning, particularly for research-based tasks or educational apps approved by the teacher.
- Some children use assistive technology as part of their learning needs and may complete their homework using software such as Microsoft Word or other appropriate applications. This is an important support for these students, and its use should be facilitated as required.
- The pupil should have their homework journal/homework sheet beside them and tick off work as it is completed. Homework journals should be signed once per week, preferably on a Thursday night, by a parent or guardian after checking that the work is completed satisfactorily.
- If your child is working independently, be available to help and show interest in what is being done. If you are working with your child and feel yourself becoming impatient,

take a short break and return to the work later. Praise your child's efforts at every opportunity.

- Parents should encourage a positive attitude towards all subjects from an early age and advise their child to do their best work at all times. If your child is persistently having problems with homework, contact the class teacher and discuss the difficulties.
- Encourage your child to keep books and copies clean and tidy and to take pride in doing their best work. Ensure your child has all the necessary books and school-related items needed for school the following day.
- The school promotes recreational reading as part of the homework routine or at other times (e.g., bedtime, weekends, breaks). We would appreciate the cooperation of all parents/guardians in this regard.
- While homework may be facilitated in some of the school's after-school services or clubs, parents and guardians retain the ultimate responsibility to ensure that homework has been completed to standard.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- The class teacher has primary responsibility for setting and monitoring homework.
- Where a child receives support from a Special Education Teacher (SET) or attends the ASD class, homework may be differentiated or adjusted accordingly. Collaboration between teachers ensures that the homework assigned is suitable and manageable for each student.
- While teachers have autonomy in assigning homework, there is an emphasis on maintaining consistency across class groups where appropriate. Communication and collaboration between teachers help ensure alignment in expectations and workload balance for students.

## **Expectations**

- Homework is an important part of school life, and the school expects engagement with homework every night. It also plays a role in fostering resilience, responsibility, and independence in pupils. Parents and guardians have an important role in supporting their child's engagement with homework and learning at home.

## **Incentives and Homework Adjustments**

- In order to promote a positive attitude to homework, the following rewards are used: reward stickers, stars, stamps, Student of the Week, Reader of the Week, etc.

- The school will periodically award a homework-free night for special occasions or achievements.

While homework is given with the child of average ability in mind, some children will complete it more quickly than others. Some may have to finish work begun in school. Time spent on homework will vary from day to day and throughout the school year. Work completed quickly and carelessly is work not completed properly.

### **Homework Time Guidelines**

The following are the recommended homework times under normal circumstances:

- Infants: up to 20 mins.
- Rang 1 and 2: up to 30 mins.
- Rang 3 and 4: up to 40 mins.
- Rang 5 and 6: up to 50 mins.

Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday. If, for any reason, your child is unable to complete their homework on a given night, please write a short note in the homework journal to inform the teacher.

Homework will not be assigned during the week leading into the Christmas and Easter breaks. During the month of June, only active homework (e.g., outdoor activities, physical challenges, or experiential tasks) will be assigned.

### **Support for Absences**

If a child is absent from school for a lengthy period due to illness, school personnel will endeavor to help them keep up with the classwork.

In the event of a child being absent from school for other reasons (e.g., holidays), teachers will not set or correct work for individual children. Parents are encouraged to be mindful of the impact of absences on their child's learning.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson

Date: