



NETWORK
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Kindle the fire, brighten your future

Homework Policy

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1.0 Introduction

Homework is an integral part of learning at Network International School. It is a powerful learning tool for extending the range and depth of a student's knowledge and understanding as well as encouraging independent learning and self-motivation. Regular homework helps to develop good learning patterns, enabling students to develop the necessary skills for personal study and revision, which are crucial to academic success.

2.0 Policy Aims and Objectives

- To provide clear guidelines on Network International School's approach to the setting of homework and independent study.
- To provide a system which is clear to students, parents and staff.
- To promote effective homework across all years.
- To raise standards of attainment and achievement by enhancing the quality of homework set.
- To engage parents in the learning process.

3.0 Definition of Homework

Homework refers to any learning task, which a student is asked to do outside the classroom. It should be differentiated where appropriate for student ability.

4.0 Vision

Student development and achievement is the core purpose of Network International School. Homework and independent study play an integral role in developing students' motivation, depth of knowledge, independence and autonomy. When students join the school, homework will be very clearly structured and timetabled so that students are supported in developing the study habits that will help them achieve academic success. Homework will also be part of the personalised ethos of Network School and will provide an opportunity for individuals to focus on specific targets and the skills they need to develop.

5.0 Rationale

At Network International School we believe that in order for students to achieve their full potential it is vital that they undertake learning outside of the timetabled curriculum. Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into Networks long-term curriculum

plans. Homework should develop students' independent study skills and a teacher should not usually directly supervise it.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some students who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks, which may require additional resources more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. The Network School libraries provide opportunities for students to undertake homework and private study on site.

This document sets out the school's guidance for the setting of homework and independent study so that all staff and subjects can incorporate these features into their work.

6.0 Objectives of Homework

- To encourage students to develop the practice of independent study
- To develop perseverance and self-discipline
- To encourage students to have self-awareness, self-confidence and initiative
- To enable students to learn through the practice of skills acquired in the classroom and to promote quiet reflection on the work covered in the lesson.
- To support more rapid academic progress by each individual student.
- To enable class work to concentrate on those activities requiring the teacher's presence.
- To encourage students to investigate topics of study in depth, particularly through the use of effective follow-up questions.
- To open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources available outside the classroom.
- To encourage students to enjoy the skills, concepts and experiences related to each subject.
- To encourage students to talk, discuss and research using the rich variety of resources, which our community can provide.
- To allow students to focus on areas of personal interest.

7.0 Forms of Homework and Independent Study

To be effective homework needs to be relevant, fit for purpose and accessible to all students. Effective homework encourages students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed for independent learning and overall achievement.

Examples of homework:

- Writing tasks

- Exam questions
- Completing a project over a few weeks
- Reading
- Learning e.g.: facts, vocabulary, spellings
- Completing essays
- Research
- Drawing or design work
- Preparing for discussions or presentations
- On-line learning such as activities on My Maths or Vocab Express
- Answering questions
- Completing worksheets
- Revising for tests and exams

8.0 Stakeholder Responsibilities in Homework

8.1 The Responsibilities of Leadership and Management

It is the role of the Principal to support the development and implementation of homework across the school, ensure that homework is monitored through the schools Quality Assurance process and that homework is marked and assessed where appropriate. The Principal will also set the procedure to be followed by all staff for students not completing homework.

8.2 The responsibilities of students

- To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the student diary accurately and in full.
- To set up their own schedule for the completion of homework.
- To be responsible for asking a peer or the teacher if they need further clarification about the task set.
- To ensure that homework is completed to a high standard and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all homework and give their best.
- To keep their parents informed about the homework set and involving them where appropriate.
- To expect to be praised for outstanding homework or sanctioned if they do not complete it.
- To expect their homework to be marked and returned to them in a reasonable time period.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.
- To develop their organisational and time-management skills through use of their student diary and with support from their tutor

8.3 Parents can assist by:

- Being partners in their child's learning and supporting their child to grow in independence and autonomy.
- Reinforcing the value of independent study through positive feedback so their child has the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.
- Providing a quiet place to work, as students need space for reflective learning and concentration.
- Supporting their child to plan time effectively.
- Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
- Ensuring that homework is completed by the student without the direct support of any tutor they may have.
- Signing the student diary each week and providing the school with information about any problems through the student diary comments section or by contacting the school directly.

8.4 The responsibilities of Teaching Staff

- To set meaningful homework that extends and deepens learning as appropriate for the subject and the students phase.
- Set homework according to the timetable.
- To set the homework at the start of or during the lesson and to give time for students to copy down relevant information.
- To check students record their homework and the date for completion in their student diaries.
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Mark and return all homework within a reasonable time – sign, peer, self-assess, grade or provide written feedback. Where longer homework assignments are given such as for extended IGCSE work there should be interim marking and pointers for improvement.
- To ensure where necessary that homework is differentiated.
- Outstanding homework is acknowledged and rewarded.
- To issue a monitor point for incomplete homework. If a student accumulates four monitor points then they will be given a detention. If a student consistently fails to complete their homework this matter will be discussed with their parents.
- Provide help and support.
- The expectation of the length of homework will depend on: the curriculum time for each subject; the nature of the work; the ability of the student, and the particular Year Group
- Inform the Class Teacher, Subject Leads, Tutor and Head of Student Welfare when problems arise.
- To reflect on and review their practice and disseminate successful strategies or methods with their colleagues.

8.5 The Role of the Tutor

- To include homework as a topic in tutor time discussions and mentoring where appropriate.
- To encourage students to see homework as an extension of their learning.
- To check the student is noting homework down in their student diary.
- To see that homework is being set and recorded each week.
- To check that the student diary is being signed by the parent.
- To note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents/teachers.

8.6 The Role of the Subject Leads/Phase Coordinators

- To ensure schemes of work include homework and learning outcomes.
- To ensure that the setting and completion of homework is included in the regular cycle of monitoring of teaching and learning and departmental/phase self-review.
- To ensure that teachers within their department/phase are provided with and have access to suitable homework materials and tasks

9.0 Early Years Foundation Stage

Homework in Foundation 3 is to reinforce and consolidate new knowledge and skills learned at school.

Parents please try to:

- Read with and to your children as often as possible. If this is not possible perhaps an older sibling can do this.
- Play with the High Frequency Words that are sent home every week. Children do like to get a star on the word challenge chart.
- Play the games on www.topmarks.co.uk click on learning games look to the left side and select English or Mathematics and click on the 3-5 yrs. There is a wonderful range of games for children to play. The phonic games are especially good.
- Try to encourage your child to draw a picture about their weekend. Write and let us know what you did in English or Myanmar, so that we can talk about the events of their weekend.