



AMITY
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ABU DHABI

Homework Policy

2015-16

Introduction

Our Vision statement at Amity International School emphasises the importance of working as a community to achieve excellence together. Parents are seen as valued partners in establishing the foundations for lifelong learning for their children. For parents to feel involved, and equipped to support their children's learning, they need to be informed as to what they can do to extend and consolidate learning that has occurred at school. Learning at home has a direct impact in enhancing children's knowledge and understanding and leads to an improvement in standards. Research tells us that children of parents who take an active interest in their schooling can progress up to 15% more in Mathematics and reading.

This policy is intended to promote consistency within the school and to inform parents and teachers alike of the purposes and procedures of setting homework. It shows that working with parents is a vital and necessary part of our effectiveness. In order to harness this potential, we enlist the support of parents and encourage them to take homework seriously and to ensure that children complete activities on time.

Homework refers to any work or activity which students are asked to undertake outside lesson time, either on their own or with their parents.

Purposes of Homework

Homework can:

- Create a firm partnership between parents and teachers in relation to children's learning
- Encourage parents to spend time with their children
- Support parents and families in having a positive influence on children
- Reinforce work covered in class, practising and consolidating basic skills and knowledge
- Encourage children to develop perseverance, initiative and self-discipline
- Help students learn study skills, and improve personal organisation
- Make students more responsible
- Prepare students for the next stage in their education and the world of work
- Make a difference to student's achievements and standards
- Help develop positive student attitudes and behaviour

Effectiveness of homework

Homework is most effective when:

- Tasks are structured and their purpose is clearly explained to students
- There is consistent practice across the school
- Homework is given regularly so everyone knows what to expect each week
- Students and parents are clear about what they need to do

- There are high expectations of completed work
- Students receive clear feedback
- Homework policies are monitored and evaluated
- Students are given a time limit for the task set

Responsibilities

The prime responsibility for completing homework lies with the individual student (with parental support in FS and KS1). As they advance through the school, it is expected that students will take increasing personal responsibility for all aspects of their learning, including homework.

Amity International School will:

- Create a fair homework timetable
- Give clear guidelines for teachers and students
- Contact parents if students are not doing homework
- Review the policy periodically to assess its effectiveness

Teachers will:

- Set and explain activities regularly according to the guidance below
- Mark work quickly and give feedback to children
- Report to parents about homework

The students will:

- Ensure they understand the task by asking their teachers
- Organise sufficient time to do the work
- Adhere to the time frame given for each piece of work
- Demonstrate a commitment to homework
- Produce quality work
- Hand their completed work in on time to the teacher
- Work independently

Parents will:

- Take an interest in the work your child brings home, ensuring it is completed and returned on time
- Support your child in planning their time effectively
- Make sure they have a quiet place to work undisturbed, away from any distractions including television and their brothers and sisters.
- Check homework tasks to ensure they are satisfactory before they are returned to school
- Try to make homework fun and stress free
- Encourage children to persevere with challenging tasks

- Take account of the fact children forget things they have learned, so they are given work to revisit again
- Remember children develop at different rates - comparing your child with siblings or other people's children can hinder your child's development
- Follow the advice given by the teacher on how tasks should be tackled and please try to stick to the suggested time-frame below
- Discuss any anxieties about your child's learning with the class teacher

We believe parents have a particularly valuable contribution to make with regard to homework. We hope parents will support the school by making it clear to their children they value homework, explaining how it can help them progress at school.

Parents are encouraged to comment on their child's reading and other home learning tasks. Positive comments motivate and help children more. Parents should see their child's teacher if they have any problems with children completing homework.

We consider good practice to be a gradual increase in the quantity of homework and time allotted to complete it from year group to year group. We recognise the need for children to have the time to follow 'out of school' interests and family activities and the following guidelines and time allocations allow for these important things to take place. This has been particularly important when deciding on the days when homework will be set and collected.

Types of Homework

- Reinforcement of class work
- Research topics and investigations
- Preparation for class work
- Reviewing, redrafting or summarising a piece of work
- Creative homework like a mini-project
- Preparation for a presentation
- Revision work
- Completion of work started in class

No homework is given at the weekends as we feel this is quality family time.

Homework books or files will be provided for the children to use.

Homework will usually be given on Sundays with the expectation it is completed and returned to school on Thursdays - excluding Creative Learning which will have separate dates given.

Recommended time allocation for homework including reading and Arabic

Year	Focus	Approximate Time Allocation	Number of Creative Learning tasks per Academic year
Nursery	Enjoying a book together	10 minutes	N/A
	Mark making activity	every night	
KG1	Reading	10 minutes	N/A
	Phonics High frequency words	every night	
KG2	Daily reading according to ORT levels	No more than 15 minutes daily	One Creative Learning task per term
	Differentiated Spellings / Phonics to be learnt in readiness for weekly assessment		
	Differentiated Maths activity		
Grade 1	Daily reading according to ORT levels	No more than 15 minutes daily	One Creative Learning task per term
	Differentiated Spellings to be learnt in readiness for weekly assessment and spelling sentences.		
	Differentiated Maths activity		

Year	Focus	Approximate Time Allocation	Number of Creative Learning tasks per Academic year
Grade 2	Daily reading according to ORT levels	To spend 20 minutes a day on their homework + daily reading	Two Creative Learning task per term
	Differentiated Spellings to be learnt in readiness for weekly test and to find the definitions of words being learnt.		
	Practice target times tables daily		
	From Term 2 - differentiated written Maths and English weekly task		
Grade 3	Daily reading according to ORT levels	To spend 20 minutes a day on their homework + daily reading	Two Creative Learning Task per term
	Differentiated Spellings to be learnt in readiness for weekly test and to find the definitions of words being learnt.		
	Practice target times tables daily		
	Maths and English differentiated task.		

Arabic / Islamic Studies / Social Studies - Grade 1 to Grade 3

The Native speakers have homework set according to Ministry guidelines. This has to run alongside the year group homework. If there is a particularly important assessment or Creative Learning Task being undertaken in Arabic, Social Studies or Islamic Studies, then the Arabic Department will liaise with Key Stage Managers, to warn class teachers some of the weekly homework they have set may need to be excused.

Homework will be set at the beginning of the week and will be due in at the end of the week.

Arabic	Natives 3 pieces of homework a week. 2 from their text books and 1 in their story writing books.	To spend a total of 30 minutes completing the work
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	Non Natives 1 piece of homework a week	To spend a total of 30 minutes completing the work
Islamic	1 piece of homework a week	To spend a total of 20 minutes completing the work
Civics	1 piece of homework a week	To spend a total of 10 minutes completing the work

The children should not be spending longer than the expected times on their homework. If they have not finished in that time please ask them to stop. If they have tried their best, the teacher will accept the homework unfinished. If the teacher feels they could have achieved more, they will talk to the child and inform parents if necessary.

Feedback

The school recognises the importance of providing prompt and accurate feedback to students and parents on how well homework tasks have been tackled and the knowledge, skills and understanding being developed. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback ranging from an appropriate comment of praise, appreciation or area for improvement to a mark. These will vary according to the age of the student and will be in accordance with the school marking policy.

Specialist Staff

From time to time homework may be assigned by Specialist teachers, i.e., Music or P.E staff. Specialist staff should liaise with Key Stage Managers to ensure the students are not spending significantly longer than the guidelines set out above.

More Able Students

Extension homework will be provided for children who have strengths in specific areas. It is expected these tasks or extension books will come from the class teacher.

Non Compliance with Home Learning

Class teachers are responsible for monitoring the completion of homework tasks. If activities are not completed, the class teacher will make enquiries. Each class has a Dojo reward system in place to motivate students to complete their work. The Key Stage Leader and the PRE will be informed if children regularly fail to return homework. In such circumstances parents will be contacted. If homework continues not to be completed, then children will be asked to complete it during break times or at other appropriate times. We must be mindful that sometimes it is not the child's fault if homework assignments are not completed.

Monitoring

Homework is subject to regular monitoring and evaluation by the Senior Leadership Team as part of their wider role for quality assurance and given to one member of the team to assess across the school. Monitoring takes place by viewing exercise books and reviewing homework diaries / reading records. Key Stage Leaders play a role in monitoring homework in their key stages, checking the quantity and quality.

Absence from School

If children are absent from school because they are sick then we do not send work home. If they are so ill to be off school, then we feel they are too ill to complete work at home.

If children are absent from school for a prolonged time e.g. a broken leg, then in these circumstances parents can request work from the class teacher.

Taking a holiday in school time is strongly discouraged, however, if permission is granted, additional homework will not be set. Instead parents should encourage children to keep a diary of their holiday, and to continue to read books and record their reading in their Reading Record.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored on a yearly basis by the Principal and SLT.

Approved by

Principal on behalf of the School: _____

Change History Record

Version No.	Description of Change	Owner	Date of Issue
1.0	Adoption of Policy	Principal Amity CEO	Aug 2015
2.0	Addition of Arabic homework	Principal	February 2016
3.0	Revision of Policy	KS1 Leader	May 2016