

Homework Helps

A Guide for Parents & Learners

Our goal is to make homework a positive and productive experience for everyone!

We believe that homework is a vital partnership between school and home. It is not just about finishing assignments; it is about building life-long skills, independence, and responsibility.

Why is Homework Important? (Our Aim)

Homework serves a crucial role in your child's education. It helps us to:

- **Test Understanding:** Check if your child truly grasps what was taught in class.
- **Build Independence:** Encourage learners to solve problems and complete tasks on their own.
- **Promote Conscientiousness:** Teach learners to be responsible, meet deadlines, and produce neat work.
- **Guide Teaching:** Allow educators to identify which learners need extra attention or help.
- **Develop Future Skills:** Equip learners with crucial research, reading, and summary skills they will need in high school and beyond.
- **Extend Learning:** Create space for tasks (like research projects or reading) that are impracticable to complete during class time.

The Role of the PARENT / GUARDIAN

You are the "home coach". Your involvement is essential to your child's success. We expect parents to:

- **Be Informed:** You should be familiar with our homework expectations. Please reach out to the school if you have any questions.
- **Provide a Space:** Set up a quiet, well-lit area with necessary supplies (pencils, paper, dictionary).
- **Set a Routine:** Establish a regular time each day for homework to build a strong routine.
- **Show Interest:** Take an active interest in the work your child is doing. Ask them what they are learning.
- **Sign the Workbook:** Please sign your child's books regularly. This helps you stay in touch with the educator and track your child's progress.
- **Monitor Completion:** Check that homework is finished and neat. If your child is struggling, write a note to the teacher.
- **Access Resources:** Help your child find resources (like library books or internet access) when assignments require research.
- **Seek Help if Needed:** If you are unable to assist, please arrange for another family member, elder learner or neighbour to step in and support the learner.
- **Communicate:** If your child is sick or there is a family emergency, please send a note to the teacher explaining why homework was not completed.

Important Note: We will keep records of parent involvement. If we notice a lack of support at home, we will contact you to discuss how we can work together to help your child.

The Role of the LEARNER

Homework is YOUR responsibility. You are expected to be independent and conscientious.

As a learner you will:

1. **Record it Correctly:** Write down all homework in my special homework book **every day** before I leave class.
2. **Ask for Clarity:** If I don't understand the assignment, I will ask the teacher for clear instructions **before** I go home.
3. **Do My Best:** Complete my work neatly, check my answers, and submit it on time.
4. **Get My Book Signed:** Ensure that my parent or guardian signs my homework book regularly.
5. **Bring it Back:** Pack my finished homework in my bag to return to school the next day.

How the School Implements This Policy

To ensure fairness and consistency, we follow these procedures:

- **Marking:** Teachers set aside time to mark homework and provide feedback.
- **Record Keeping:** We keep a record of whether homework has been completed or not.
- **Rewards:** Learners who consistently do their homework may be rewarded for their effort.
- **Exceptions:** We understand that unforeseen circumstances (sickness, death in the family) happen. In these special cases, exceptions will be made if a parent sends a note.

Consequences for Intentional Non-Completion:

If a learner chooses not to do their homework without a valid reason, the following steps will be taken:

- **1st Offence:** Verbal Warning.
- **2nd Offence:** A formal message is sent to the parents.
- **3rd and Repeated Offence:** Parents are called in for a face-to-face meeting at the school.

What to Expect by Grade Level

We tailor homework to the child's age and ability:

For Grades 1 – 3 (Foundation Phase):

- **Focus:** Close cooperation between parents and teachers is vital.
- **Role:** The educator will guide the learner in class, but the parent plays a strong support role at home.
- **Volume:** The workload is light and age-appropriate.

For Grades 4 – 7 (Intermediate & Senior Phase):

- **Focus:** Learners become gradually more independent.
- **Coordination:** Homework is coordinated between different subjects to prevent overload.
- **Progress:** Tasks become more advanced, including research, summaries, and library visits.
- **Clarity:** Teachers will give **clear, specific instructions** for assignments so that both parents and learners know exactly what is expected and what resources are needed.
- **Subject Policies:** The specific volume and level of homework is guided by the individual subject requirements.

Quick Tips for a Stress-Free Homework Time

- **Read Daily:** Aim for **15–20 minutes** of reading every night. This is the most important homework of all!
- **Take Breaks:** If your child is tired, let them take a 10-minute break to run around before starting.
- **No Screens:** Keep phones and TVs off during homework time to minimize distractions.