

Aims

- To support and reinforce what is done at school.
- To help the teacher gauge student's learning and understanding.
- To create a link with home.
- To assist in formative assessment.

Functions of Homework

- It should be meaningful and work should have been dealt with at school.
- It should be relevant, engaging and linked to the outside world.
- It should be varied and fitted to students' needs and ability.
- It should also be informal relating to research, activities or extracurricular work.
- It should add value to learning and be beneficial to students.
- It should be creative and instil in students the love of exploring more on the topics.
- It should enhance the use of technology.

Suggested Duration of Homework

- Kinder – No homework to be given at this age but parents are encouraged to read to their children and build on the activities done at school.
- Years 1-2 – Homework should not exceed 20 minutes but reading is encouraged daily in both Maltese and English.
- Years 3-6 – Homework should not exceed 30 minutes at Yr3 level and increase gradually without exceeding 45 minutes by Yr6. Independent HW is encouraged as the students grow from year to year. Students should be urged to read daily in both Maltese and English.
- Wednesday is “No Homework Day.” This refers to written work but not to reading and/or research
- On Fridays the students are given a Weekend Task which may vary according to the time of the year or activities organised around the country. This is a wonderful opportunity for the family to get together to complete the task and take part in the child's education.

Homework During Long Absences

- Parents are to inform the school when their child is expected to miss school for a long time.
- Frequent communication between teacher and parent is encouraged to assist the student.
- Teachers should upload any homework on a selected platform (MS Teams) so that the student can carry out the work.
- Teachers should not accept any hardcopies from students who are absent due to sickness.
- Long term absentees in the early years (Y1-Y2) should practise work done in school with their parents.

Duties – Teachers and Kindergarten Educators

- Give practical and meaningful homework which stimulates creativity, critical thinking and problem solving.
- Include staggering challenges for different abilities.
- Provide timely and constructive feedback.
- Offer support.
- Engage parents as partners through which learning is developed further.
- Inform school administration if students does not do any homework repeatedly.
- Inform parents/guardians if work is not done by their child seeking the reason why this is not done and what measures should be taken to help the student see the importance and functions of homework.
- Promote students who do their homework timely and neatly.

Duties – Learning Support Educators

- LSEs should work hand in hand with the teacher and the support the initiatives adopted. Work should be adapted according to the level of the student assigned to whilst following the teacher's strategies.

Duties – Students

- Take note of work that needs to be done at home
- Do their work neatly, carefully and in a responsible manner.
- Work on feedback provided by the teacher.
- Seek clarification for work which is not clear or understood.
- Check work which was given during absence (Y3-Y6).
- Homework to be done in full.

Duties – Parents/Guardians

- Foster a positive attitude towards HW.
- Check the work that needs to be done by the students.
- Form a relationship with the teacher and follows the feedback provided by the teacher.
- Participate in workshops which provides better techniques to assist their children during HW.
- Assist their children in time management.
- Adopt a supervisory role where students complete the work and are responsible for it.
- Provide a suitable workspace for their child.
- Assist and participate wholly with their child in informal HW such as the Weekend task, reading, sites visiting, cultural activities, sport, reading and crafts.

Duties – Senior Leadership Team

- Foster lifelong learning and ensure a healthy relationship between teachers, parents and students.
- Ensure HW policy is enacted.
- Provide a copy of the Homework Policy to the parents informing them of their expectations and urging them to explain the policy with their children.
- Support teachers in the enactment of the policy.
- Provide workshops for parents to assist them in strategies and techniques to use with their children at home.
- Assist with the school-home communication when there are long term absences.
- Review the Homework Policy periodically.