



Homework Policy

Primary cycle

Homework takes into consideration the abilities of the pupils and their rate of learning. Teachers always use their professional know-how to determine which homework is appropriate for their pupils.

Homework can take different forms. E.g. research, reading, drawing, writing, collecting specimens, pictures and general background from papers and magazines.

Homework should not be given as a formal assessment since the child may have been helped by his parents and since the educational support available in one family may differ from that in another. All the same, homework must always be checked and corrected in the school (in the class by the pupils or the teacher).

Especially in the 1st and 2nd class it is very important that the pupils practice reading with their parents every day for 10-15 minutes.

Objectives

It is important to keep in mind the pedagogical aim of homework:

1. Homework encourages **pupils** to personally take charge of their school work through study and research. Homework should stimulate and satisfy pupils' curiosity. Homework can offer pupils the possibility to complete the tasks which they could not finish in class and to practice and reflect on the subject matter taught in class.
2. For **parents**, homework forms one of the links between school and home. It offers parents an excellent opportunity to follow their child's school work, to encourage his/her independence and to show appreciation for his/her efforts. The parents' role is:
 - to support the teacher by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
 - to encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
 - to become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
 - to make it clear that they value homework
 - to provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
3. For **teachers**, homework is a means to encourage the pupils' autonomy and at the same time to exercise their memory and develop their organisational skills in their own school work. It offers teachers a means to gauge in how far the pupils have assimilated the school work. It also constitutes a link with the pupils' parents and gives teachers the opportunity to pass on information regularly and to work together with the pupils' families.

Principles

1. The school must recognise the importance of leisure time for the children and the place that after-school activities have in their development. After a rather long day's work, children need to take a break and relax, just like adults. This is the responsibility of each family.
2. Homework must not simply be a prolongation of school work. It must instead take on a more creative form and encourage the child's autonomy in his/her intellectual and expressive activity.
3. The school should avoid imposing on the parents the role of teacher at home. Equally, parents should avoid taking on this role. Parents take an interest in their child's homework; they supervise them and check what they have done.
4. In principle, no homework is given during the holidays. Weekends though are useful for finishing homework which has been given several days prior. However, teachers must avoid giving the pupils too much homework for the weekend, which is the ideal time for family activities.
5. In order to avoid overloading the pupils, it is necessary for the teachers to coordinate homework. A time limit must be imposed, even if the task is not completed. On average the duration should not exceed:
 - 20 minutes for the first and second year classes
 - 30 minutes for the third year classes
 - 45 minutes for the fourth and fifth year classes.