

**Policy Title:**

**Whole School Homework Policy 2015**

**1 Rationale:**

At DBSJP we value the importance of working as a community in order to achieve excellence. Parents are seen as valued partners in establishing the foundations for lifelong learning. 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. The learning activities teachers assign for homework provide parents a window into the content, skills and methods their children are learning at school. We believe that learning at home has a direct impact in enhancing children's knowledge and understanding and leads to an improvement in standards.

We consider good practice to be a gradual increase in the quantity of homework and time allotted to it from year to year. We recognise the need for students to have the time to follow out of school interests and family activities and the massive developmental and social benefits these activities will bring. The following guidelines and time allocations allow for these important aspects of childhood to take place. We also recognize that regular independent homework outside of a school environment supports the development of individual learning, organizational and motivational skills that are lifelong qualities our children will need to thrive as they enter the world as young people and adults.

**2 Aims:**

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. To harness this potential, we enlist the support of parents and encourage them to take homework seriously and to view it as a continuation of lifelong learning and to ensure children complete activities on time.

**3 Policy Statement:**

3.1 The purpose of Homework is to:

- create a firm partnership between parents and teachers in relation to children's learning
- encourage parents to spend time with their children
- reinforce work covered in class and practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge
- encourage students to develop perseverance, initiative and self-discipline
- help students learn study skills, and improve personal organisation
- make students more responsible, organised and independent
- prepare students for the next stage in their education and the world of work
- make a positive difference to students achievements and standards
- help develop positive student attitudes and behaviour
- In the younger years parents are asked to read regularly and engage in activities with their child. Often acting as a role model for learning strategies and experiences.
- 

3.2 Types of Homework

- Activities designed to reinforce class work
- Research topics and investigations
- Preparation for class work

- Reviewing, redrafting or summarising a piece of work
- Longer term assignments and projects
- Writing up notes from an experiment or other practical work
- Preparation for a presentation
- Revision work
- Completion of work started in class
- Collaboration on Blogs, wikis etc

### 3.3 The Recommended Time Allocation (excluding Arabic subjects)

Teachers will liaise with colleagues to ensure consistency within teams and to ensure the time allocations are not being exceeded.

The recommended times are:

- Year 1 - 2: 1 - 1 ½ hours per week with reading in addition
- Year 3 - 5: 1 ½ - 2 hours per week with reading in addition
- Year 6 - 8: 1 hour per night
- Year 9 - 13: 1- 2 hours per night

### 3.4 Monitoring Homework and Follow-up

Teachers are responsible for monitoring the completion of homework. If activities are not completed to the required standard, the teacher is required to follow up with an enquiry.

If homework is not to be completed, students may be asked to complete it during break times or after school during ECA time. With repeated cases of non-completion, detention may be sanctioned.

In such circumstances, parents will be informed and strategies offered to assist in bringing the homework up to the required standard and to ensure it is completed on time.

### 3.5 Absence from School

If students are absent from school through illness work is not generally sent home. If they are ill enough to be off school, then they are considered too ill to complete work at home.

Opportunities for catch-up will be provided by the teacher to ensure there is minimal impact on learning.

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

## 4 Roles and Responsibilities:

### 4.1 The role of students:

- The prime responsibility for completing homework lies with the individual student. As they advance through the school, it is expected that students will take increasing personal responsibility for all aspects of their learning, including homework
- They are also responsible for speaking to their teacher if they misplace homework or do not understand the task before the given deadline.

### 4.2 Teachers will:

- Work together to set relevant, varied, differentiated activities that are consistent across the Year group.
- Provide children with enjoyable homework that excites them and makes them want to investigate

further.

- Explain activities in advance, ensuring students understand tasks prior to sending them home. When required, teachers will provide examples and model the desired layout/method
- Mark homework promptly, providing feedback to students and parents on how students have performed
- Be sensitive with regards to the amount of time that needs to be spent on homework, varying this with according to the age, work habits and ability of the student
- Communicate to parents about homework as necessary

#### 4.3 Parents can support by:

- Taking an interest in the work their child brings home, ensuring that it is completed and returned on time
- Supporting their child in planning their time effectively
- Making sure he/she has a quiet place to work undisturbed away from any distractions including television and siblings
- Checking homework tasks to ensure they have been completed to a satisfactory standard before they are returned to school
- Trying to make homework fun and stress free
- Encouraging their child to persevere with challenging tasks
- Remembering that children develop at different rates - don't compare their child with siblings or other people's children
- Following the advice given by the teacher on how tasks should be tackled for consistency
- Discussing any anxieties about their child's learning with the Class Teacher, not the child.
- Ensuring their child comes to school each day on time, fully prepared, capable and equipped to learn
- In younger years support homework by modelling and often reading to or demonstrating strategies to complete homework

#### **5 Applicable to:**

Students, parents and teachers

#### **6 Related Documents:**

School Parent Contract  
Feedback to students policy  
Student attendance policy  
Student Code of Conduct

#### **7 Implementation Date:** September 2015