

SRI LANKAN SCHOOL - MUSCAT

HOMEWORK POLICY

WHY HOMEWORK IS GIVEN

1. Time constraint: As the teachers find the time allocated for subjects is sometimes insufficient to verify whether the children have grasped the matter taught, homework becomes an extension of the class work.
2. Homework helps the child to revise the work done in class.
3. Homework encourages research and independent learning.
4. Homework adds value to lessons taught in school.
5. Children gain confidence in their studies when they work alone at home.
6. Homework is used to prepare the child for the next lesson
7. Homework ensures that a sufficient time is spent at home in productive work in a constructive manner.
8. Parents are made aware of the work done in school by their children.

WHAT IS GIVEN AS HOMEWORK

1. Homework is given to consolidate the work done in school.
2. Homework is given compulsorily in the core-curricular subjects
3. The child will not be over-burdened with exercises and written work only. It should be enjoyable and challenging. He will be given assignments to explore his environment and find out about the world he lives in.
4. Wherever possible, the child will be given project work to be done alone or with the assistance of others.
5. The child (where appropriate) should be encouraged to maintain a picture library as an on-going and continuous project.

WHEN SHOULD HOME WORK BE GIVEN

1. The frequency of giving home work is different at different age ranges and key stages.
 - a. Infants will be given **home-play** once a week on Wednesdays.
 - b. Primary school - core subjects : at-least twice a week.
 - c. Primary school – other subjects: once a week
 - d. Lower Secondary – Math daily, English/Science on alternative days, other subjects as and when necessary
 - e. Examination classes – As per subject requirements. Homework will be examination oriented.
2. Homework will be given during the holiday periods too.
3. Slow learners will be given homework at an appropriate level of difficulty.
4. Fast learners will be given more work than the average students.

HOW MUCH OF HOME WORK TO BE GIVEN

Infants : In the case of the Reception Classes (Foundation Stage) homework is replaced by the concept Home Play. The quantity of work will be determined by the capacity of the children to be engaged in it without it being a botheration. In other words, the infants will be given a quantity of work that they would enjoy doing.

Primary: The child should be able to complete the work within a reasonable time duration and still have time to play and enjoy at home.

Lower Secondary: The child is matured enough to realize that work done in school has to be consolidated by spending a fair amount of time on studies at home. It is expected that the child prepares a time table for studies done at home. Home work will not be confined to completing exercises but be in different interesting modes like preparing for presentations, projects, research on the internet etc. When internet based assignments are given, the students are not expected to download material from the internet and present it as their own work. Students at this level are expected to spend around two hours a day on their homework.

Examination Classes: Home work in these classes can be in the form of past question papers, assignments, projects, research etc. They are expected to spend a minimum of three hours each day at home on their studies.

It is accepted that too little homework as well as too much homework is counter-productive.

DIFFERENTIATION

1. Homework assigned should be relevant to all ability groups in the class. For this purpose, the teachers would prepare Graded Assignments that would allow:
 - a. Even below average students to achieve at least 30% of marks awarded.
 - b. Average students to achieve up to 70% of marks awarded.
 - c. Gifted students, above average students and average students who make the extra effort to be able to achieve beyond 70%.
2. The child will be given more work in areas that he is less able.
3. The children will be given work appropriate at their level of achievement.
4. The slow learners will be given more practical work (where appropriate) such that they would not despise home work as well as school work.

CROSS CURRICULAR APPROACH

1. Where it is appropriate, teachers will give assignments to encompass more than one subject.
Eg. Children are asked to prepare a proposal for a trip to a foreign country. This project would bring in to play, mathematical concepts and skills (cost factor),

Science knowledge (clothes to be worn at different weather conditions),
Geographical knowledge (time zones, geographical features), general knowledge
(flight details, countries and cities), History (historical sites) etc.

2. Home work will be designed where appropriate, to promote investigative approach in the child. It will be used to give the child skills in research, writing reports, making presentations etc.

CO-ORDINATION

It is important to ensure that unknown to each other different teachers do not give home work in their own subjects simultaneously, expecting the child to complete it within an unrealistic time frame. There should be co-ordination among teachers in ascertaining the quantum of home work to be given. The Class Record Book will be used by teachers to indicate when they give homework.

The teachers will meet at regular interval to discuss the progress made and problems encountered.

MARKING

1. The subject teachers will mark the home work without undue delay.
2. The teachers will authenticate the marking by initialing and dating.
3. The teachers will mark the work purposefully and write useful comments to improve the quality of the child's work
4. The teachers will write appreciative and encouraging remarks in the child's home work book where appropriate.
5. Comments like 'good', 'should improve' will be substantiated by helpful remarks. If it is 'good', the child will be told why it is good. If the teacher wants the child 'to improve', the teacher will give a guideline on how to improve.

REWARDS , CONSEQUENCES, PENALTY

- When a student comes to school without doing the home work, every effort will be made to investigate the reason and decide on remedial measures.
- If the child did not do the home work because he is unable to do it, the teacher will help the child and tell him how to do it. However the child will be required to show evidence of attempting to do the exercise.
- The parents will be notified if the child comes to school repeatedly without doing the work due to laziness.
- Punishment is meted out only in extreme cases and teachers will endeavour to try out all other methods before resorting to punishment.
- A slow learner who shows improvement or interest in doing home work will be specially complemented and the parents will be informed by a note written in the communication book/student diary.

ROLE OF PARENTS

1. Child should be allowed to do the home work alone.
2. Parents may assist in the work when necessary but should never do it for the child.
3. Parents should be aware of the work done in school and the standard expected of the child by being attentive on the home work given.
4. Parents are expected to allocate a specific time for the child to do the home work and create a positive academic environment in the house during that time.
5. Parents are expected to treat home work as a vehicle for establishing a cordial and productive working partnership with the teachers.
6. For the successful implementation of 1 to 4, parents should always co-ordinate with the subject teachers of their child.
7. If the child cannot do the work assigned, he/she should come to school without doing it and tell the teacher that he/she needs help. Under no circumstances should the parent do the assignment for the child.
8. If a parent feels or fears that the child might be punished or humiliated by a teacher for not doing the homework, the parent should contact the Principal.
9. The above does not apply to a child who does not do the homework due to laziness or any other factor.
10. Parents should closely observe the implementation of the homework policy of the school and bring it to the notice of the Principal if it is violated.