



DUBAI MODERN HIGH SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own, an essential skill for adult life.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- To extend school learning beyond the walls of the classroom, through additional reading, research, independent study and collaborative projects.
- To support the home/school relationship.
- Provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children
- Challenges and extends gifted and talented children.
- Promotes independent tinkering and research skills

INTRODUCTION

A copy of the updated document is available to staff, students, parents and caregivers, on GLG. Actual time required to complete assignments will vary with each student's study habits, academic skills, and selected course load. The school has recently put in place the Homework Chart which limits the number of homework assignments per day to 3 subjects. These assignments will be set with care and ample time will be given for completion and submission. If a child is spending an inordinate amount of time doing homework, parents are advised to contact their child's teacher and if necessary, study habits are probed and appropriate intervention sought from the counsellor. In order to complete the curricula and enhance independent learning, teachers will set regular homework in all grades. The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

The three main types of homework are:

Practice exercises - providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- Consolidation exercise e.g. maths, including memorization of tables
- Practicing for mastery e.g. spelling words, annotations of diagrams, chemistry formulae etc
- Revising information on a current topic
- Practicing words or phrases learnt in a language other than English
- Reading for pleasure
- Essay writing





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Preparatory homework - providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- Background reading
- Reading e.g. English text for class discussion
- Researching topics for a class unit under discussion
- Collecting items e.g. geometric shapes.

Extension assignments/ Holiday Homework - encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- Research
- Presenting their research and findings through ppt presentations and learning corner talks
- Writing e.g. a book review
- Making or designing something e.g. an art work
- Investigations e.g. science, social science
- Researching e.g. history, local news
- Information and retrieval skills eg. using a home computer to find relevant information on the Internet and validating the authenticity of the source of information.
- Holidays should be used effectively to complete holiday homework assignments and all deadlines should be met.

Wherever possible homework should recognize the place of technology in today's world and the benefits of using technology such as home computers, E-mail and the Internet for organizing and accessing information. The school, however, has regard for equity issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged.

It is important that students should have frequent and increasing opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies as independent learners.

Role of the school:

- Explaining to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework
- Providing quality homework activities related to classwork
- Setting a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student
- Ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- Giving students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations and extracurricular activities and homework set by other teachers
- Marking homework promptly and appropriately.





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- In keeping with good learning practices, students are sometimes encouraged to correct the work of their peers as well as their own.
- Alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework.

Role of Parents:

- Taking an active interest in homework and knowing the homework policy
- Ensuring that there is time set aside for homework
- Encouraging and supporting students to complete homework
- Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study
- Encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events
- Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their child's approach to the homework
- Alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected.
- While parents' assistance in homework tasks is commended, students should be allowed to work independently as far as possible.

Role of Students:

- Being aware of the importance of homework and of the school's homework policy
- Completing homework within the given time frame
- Special Prep sessions are allotted for completion of homework assignments and students should be encouraged to ensure that this time is used effectively.
- Alerting parents or caregivers to homework related concerns
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- Organizing their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to complete homework set in a reflective and appropriate manner.

Being away on the day that homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it.

- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary students should see the member of staff concerned for help
- Students should take a pride in doing their best.

AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK

Homework should not prevent students from participating in activities after school such as sport, music or clubs of any kind. If your child is spending too much time each night on homework, please contact the school management. The following guidelines are approximate:

- **Kindergarten: 30 minutes per week**





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- **Primary: 45 minutes week**
- **Middle School: 2 hours per week**
- **Senior School 3 hours per week**

SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

- **Organization/ Distribution of homework:** Homework GLG, Diary
- **Non-Completion of Homework** When homework has not been completed and submitted on time, appropriate action will be taken by the department. This could include a break time, lunchtime or an after-school detention for a period of time deemed appropriate by the concerned teacher or supervisor.
- **Not all homework is done at home;** in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.
- **Plagiarism:** is unacceptable and the concerned students' work will not be marked. Homework will be reset to be completed by the students. Repeated offenders will receive counseling and be exposed to redressal measures such as framing the plagiarism policy for the class, conducting talks for peers on why plagiarism is unacceptable.

POLICY FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to the Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

