

# British Overseas School: Homework Policy



## 1. Purpose and Rationale

Homework at the British Overseas School is designed to complement classroom learning, reinforce key skills, and promote independence and responsibility among students. It provides opportunities for children to consolidate learning, extend curiosity, and involve parents in the learning process.

We recognise that our students lead busy lives, balancing school, family, and co-curricular commitments. Therefore, our approach to homework is purposeful, age-appropriate, and meaningful rather than excessive or repetitive.

## 2. Aims

Through our homework policy, we aim to:

- Consolidate and extend learning that has taken place in the classroom.
- Encourage independent learning and personal responsibility.
- Develop organisational and time-management skills.
- Strengthen home-school partnerships by involving parents in the learning process.
- Foster creativity, critical thinking, and self-reflection.

## 3. Guiding Principles

- Homework should be meaningful, manageable, and motivating.
- It should reinforce or extend class learning, not introduce entirely new concepts.
- Teachers will ensure homework expectations are clearly explained and age-appropriate.
- Feedback on homework may be provided through written comments, verbal discussions, or classroom reflection activities.
- Homework will not be used as a disciplinary measure.
- A healthy balance between academic tasks and leisure/play time is maintained.

## 4. Roles and Responsibilities

### Teachers

- Assign purposeful and achievable homework.

- Communicate tasks clearly through planners or online learning platforms (e.g., Microsoft Teams, Zippy Maths).
- Provide feedback to support learning.
- Consider the individual needs of students, including those with additional learning needs.

### **Students**

- Take responsibility for completing homework to the best of their ability.
- Manage their time effectively.
- Seek help when unsure about instructions or content.

### **Parents / Guardians**

- Provide a quiet, well-lit space and supportive atmosphere for homework.
- Encourage independence rather than doing the work for the child.
- Communicate with teachers if a task proves too difficult or time-consuming.
- Sign the homework diary daily.

## **5. Homework Expectations by Year Group in the Primary School**

The following are guidelines for the amount of homework you can expect in each year group:

- Pre-Nursery: 10 minutes
- Nursery: 10 minutes
- Reception: 20 minutes (to include 10 minutes of reading activities)
- Year 1: 30 minutes (to include 10 minutes of reading activities)
- Year 2: 45 minutes (to include 15 minutes of reading activities)
- Year 3: 1 hour (to include 15 minutes of reading activities)
- Year 4: 1 hour 15 minutes (to include 20 minutes of reading activities)
- Year 5: 1 hour 30 minutes (to include 20 minutes of reading activities)

## **7. Feedback and Monitoring**

- Teachers will acknowledge completed homework through verbal feedback, marking, or sharing during lessons.
- Homework is reviewed to inform teaching and identify misconceptions.
- Students may occasionally present homework to peers, promoting pride and ownership.
- Persistent non-completion will be addressed sensitively, involving the student and parents if necessary.

## **8. Supporting Inclusion**

Homework is differentiated where appropriate to meet the needs of all learners, including those with additional or English as an Additional Language (EAL) needs. Adjustments are made to ensure tasks are accessible and achievable for every child.

## **9. Parental Communication Primary**

Parents in Primary school will be informed of homework routines and expectations at the beginning of each academic year. Parents are encouraged to contact the class teacher for clarification or support if difficulties arise.

Communication channels in Primary school include:

- Homework diaries
- Online platforms (Microsoft Teams)
- Parent-Teacher Conferences

## **10. Secondary School**

It is important that students develop good study habits for the future and therefore parents are asked to ensure that a suitable time and place is set aside for their child to complete his/her homework. Parents are asked to monitor their child's homework and contact their child's Subject Teacher or Form Tutor immediately with any issues or concerns.

Students who are having difficulty with aspects of their work must be encouraged to speak with their subject teacher. Students should also be encouraged to discuss any concerns with their Form Tutor. Form Tutors will monitor homework closely by signing homework diaries weekly. They will co-operate with specialist/subject teachers to ensure students are not overloaded. A homework timetable appropriate to each Year Group will be distributed at the beginning of the year. Coursework and revision are important components of homework in Key Stage 4 and 5.

Each Faculty has a marking policy designed to develop a consistent approach to the marking of class-work and homework. Teachers also maintain records of all formal homework assignments completed by students.

Consistent failure to complete homework will be treated as a breach of the School Code. Please refer to the section in the Behaviour Code for details of the referral and sanctions used for non-completion of homework.

## **11. Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the School Leadership Team in consultation with teachers. Last updated September 2025.