



HOËRSKOOL

# MARTIE DU PLESSIS

HIGH SCHOOL

## POLICY AND GUIDELINES: HOMEWORK

### Contents

POLICY: HOMEWORK .....	2
WHY IS HOMEWORK IMPORTANT? .....	2
WHAT SORT OF ACTIVITIES ARE WE TALKING ABOUT? .....	2
AN ASSESSMENT PLAN WILL BE HANDED TO EACH CHILD.....	3
FEEDBACK ON YOUR CHILD'S HOMEWORK .....	3
SHOULD I HELP MY CHILD WITH HOMEWORK? .....	3
SHOULD PARENTS HELP WITH HOMEWORK?.....	4
HOMEWORK AGREEMENT .....	5
GUIDELINES ON HOW MUCH TIME TO SPEND ON HOMEWORK.....	6

# POLICY: HOMEWORK

“Well organised homework can play a  
vital role in raising standards of  
achievement.”

## Purpose

This policy communicates the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn, rather than focus on the amount of time. The guidelines do however also indicate how much time learners might reasonably be expected to spend on homework.

**Remember this is not cast in stone since some learners need more time to study or complete their homework.**

While most parents do appreciate the value and importance of homework, a few feel that we do not give enough homework and others feel that there is too much!

It is not always easy to get the balance right but we will aim to get it right more often than not.

## WHY IS HOMEWORK IMPORTANT?

- It raises your child's **achievement**.
- It **consolidates** and **extends** the work they have **done in school**.
- It helps to **inform you about your child's school work** and allows and gives you the opportunity to **support** this work.
- It is a **valuable life skill** and develops good work **habits** for the future.

## WHAT SORT OF ACTIVITIES ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

Our homework activities are related to the work your child is doing at school and will not always be written work.

For young children it will usually be:

- **Reading** with parents or guardians
- **Games** or **activities** to practise **literacy, maths** or other **skills**

For older children, homework may also include:

- **Studying** for assessments
- **Reading**
- **Preparing** a presentation for the class
- Finding **information**
- **Designing** or **making** something

- Trying out a simple scientific **experiment**
- **Solving problems**
- Completing **assignments/projects/activities/essays/letters**
- **Oral** preparation

### **AN ASSESSMENT PLAN WILL BE HANDED TO EACH CHILD**

This assessment plan is an indication of what kind of formal assessments can be expected and when it can be expected. However, these assessments are subject to change since external factors like assessments by the Department of Education is not yet known and only arrives at the school close to the date when the assessments are supposed to be conducted.

### **FEEDBACK ON YOUR CHILD'S HOMEWORK**

If a child has difficulties with a piece of homework, they should discuss it with their teacher or you may discuss it with the Departmental Head/Deputy Principal.

### **SHOULD I HELP MY CHILD WITH HOMEWORK?**

Homework allows you to see what your child is doing and to support their learning. This partnership between school and home is a vital part of successful education.

We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved – as long as parents do not take over too much!

If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher. They will be pleased to advise you and will help you to get the right balance.

## **Twelve (12) things you can do to help your child learn!**

1. Give your child **confidence** through lots of **encouragement**.
  - You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence – and confidence is vital to learning.
  - Provide specific encouragement that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have ..." is more effective than "you're clever".
2. **Read** to and with your child as much as possible. Hear them read, or encourage them to read to themselves, for at least **15 minutes a day**. Remember they don't like something that they struggle with, so it is of the utmost importance to keep them motivated. Studies have shown that learners perform well when they read to a pet. Try it ...

3. Encourage your child to **observe and talk** about what they see, feel, think, etc.
  - Every young child can be helped to **read notices** and **signs**, and understand what they mean.
4. Make use of your local **library**.
  - Look out for **special events** and **services** for children.
5. Visit **museums** and other places you think your child might find interesting. This will help them to learn in an informal environment and broaden general knowledge.
6. If your child likes watching **television**, watch it together sometimes (but limit the time watching television) and talk about that. Children enjoy sharing their experiences and will **gain a lot from the discussion**.
7. Try to provide a reasonably **quiet** and **suitable** place where your child can **work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the homework activity**.
8. Try to set time aside to **support your child's homework activities** whilst also **allowing some independence** where appropriate and depending on the age of the child.
9. Encourage your child to **discuss homework with you**, including **feedback** from teachers.
10. Try to **help** your child to **see the enjoyable aspects of homework**.
11. Help your child to see the **importance of homework** and teach them to become more **independent and take more responsibility** for themselves as they **get older**.
12. Ensure that your child **complete and hand in homework on time**. Homework will be given daily; make sure to **check the homework daily**.

**Please contact the class teacher if you have any questions or concerns. We want your child to succeed.  
Your child's success is your success and our success!**

### **SHOULD PARENTS HELP WITH HOMEWORK?**

**Absolutely!** Your child will enjoy sharing their activities with you and learn from the conversation. It will also show right from the start that you value what they do at school and set good habits for the future.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM UNDERNEATH AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL. IT WILL BE KEPT ON FILE AND FORMS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR HOMEWORK AGREEMENT.**

-----✂-----✂-----✂-----

### HOMEWORK AGREEMENT

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

#### **PARENT**

**I have read and support the homework policy and recognise the important part it plays in my child's educational development. I am committed to my child's education and understand that I have a vital role to play in his/her success.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **CHILD**

**I will do my homework every day.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Child Date \_\_\_\_\_

If the child is still too young to sign, you as parent can explain what it means and sign on his/her behalf.

This will hopefully instil some kind of accountability and ownership in the minds of even young learners.

## **GUIDELINES ON HOW MUCH TIME TO SPEND ON HOMEWORK**

(Please take note that although it can serve as a guideline, it is impossible to guarantee that the time allocation is 100% applicable every day for each child.)

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>TIME PER DAY</b>
1	± 45 minutes
2	± 60 minutes
3	± 60 minutes
4	± 90 minutes
5	± 2 hours
6	± 2 hours
7	± 2 hours
8	± 2½ hours
9	± 2½ hours
10	± 3 hours
11	± 3 hours
12	± 3½ hours