



POLICY (Number: Hxii) HOMEWORK POLICY

The homework routine varies from class to class, as does the amount of homework given. A Somerset House Diary is provided for each child and acts as a communication tool between teacher and parent or caregiver. Supervised Prep periods are offered every afternoon for children in Grades 4 – 7 in the Knowledge Centre. Children work on projects during school time and we try to limit homework to a reasonable load.

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is to consolidate the essential skills of reading and understanding. To practise tables and bonds and to become more familiar with spelling patterns and rules. It can allow for what has been learnt at school to be revised and consolidated independently at home. Occasionally, it will require pupils to gather information and to prepare themselves with resources to use at school.

HOMEWORK AND THE PUPIL

Every pupil from Grade 1 to Grade 7 will be given a Somerset House Diary, where homework, information and extra-curricular activities can be recorded. The recording of homework is different across the grades and will be made clear at the beginning of the year. It is the pupil's responsibility to complete the assigned homework tasks and to meet any deadlines set by the teacher. If a pupil has not completed the work done in class, it may need to be done at home in addition to the homework set.

In the Senior Primary phase, when homework has not been completed, an e mail will be sent to the parents. If homework is repeatedly not done, (the number of times is left to the discretion of the teacher), the pupil could receive an appropriate punishment or detention. Pupils who are absent from school are responsible for catching up on all work and homework completed during their absence with the guidance and assistance of their teachers. It is recommended that pupils attend supervised prep for support with this.

AMOUNT OF TIME ALLOCATED TO HOMEWORK

Grade One to Grade Three

Pupils in this phase of the school should be spending a maximum of 20 minutes a day on homework from Monday to Thursday. In this phase, homework consists of daily reading practice, practise of phonics and spelling and consolidation of bonds and tables. As far as possible, the emphasis should be on reinforcing the concepts taught during the school day in a stress-free environment in an organised and systematic manner.

Suggested Homework Breakdown:

Reading	10 minutes daily
Bonds and Tables	5 minutes daily
Spelling	5 minutes daily

Grade Four to Grade Seven

Pupils in this phase of the school should be spending a recommended time of 30 minutes on homework daily from Monday to Thursday. For all Grades, homework should include a minimum of 15 minutes of reading daily, this could include English and Afrikaans. In Grades Four and Five, bonds and tables should also be practised regularly. In Grades Six and Seven, the homework in English, Afrikaans and Mathematics can be allocated over the course of the week, allowing pupils to practise the skills of prioritisation and time-management. In their preparation, teachers also factor in the time needed for consolidation of work covered in class and preparation for tests and examinations

Grade Four and Five Suggested Homework Breakdown:

Reading	15 - 20 minutes
Daily Maths	10 minutes
Spelling revision	5 - 10 minutes
Consolidation and study as required	

Grade Six and Seven Suggested Homework Breakdown:

Daily Homework (reading, spelling, Maths)	30 minutes
Consolidation, completion and Study	when necessary and required



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We encourage our parents to take an active interest in their child's academics. We ask our parents to assume the responsibility of checking that all homework has been completed. Please **DO NOT** correct homework done as your child's teacher will then not know when your child needs further assistance.

In some Grades and classes, parents will be required to sign the pupil's homework book and tests. In this way, parents can follow their child's progress throughout the academic year.

A parent should listen to their child read out loud on a regular basis – even in Grade 7.

Practical concerns to bear in mind are:

- Provide a place conducive to homework and study. It should be well lit and free from distractions. (e.g. a desk in the bedroom away from others, radio and TV.)
- Implement a set routine. No excuses or procrastination should be permitted.
- Show an interest in your child's work without nagging, becoming over-involved or applying extreme pressure
- Don't be tempted to complete homework or projects for your children. This may lead to a wrong impression of the pupil's level on the part by the teacher, and, when discovered, will result in a loss of marks. Your child will then also never learn these essential skills and abilities if s/he is not given an opportunity to practise them.
- If there are any concerns, please communicate with the teacher either through the homework diary, via e-mail or by making an appointment for a face to face meeting.
- Make every effort to be supportive of the teacher and the school in front of your child.
- Assist your child to find the necessary reference materials, whether this means providing them at home, encouraging after hours use of our Knowledge Centre or providing the necessary transportation to and from the public library.