



International Grammar School

Homework Policy

IGS ensures that homework is always meaningful with a clearly identified outcome which is explicitly made known to students. Tasks done at home should not be overly burdensome and teachers should be cognisant of the demands of life on students. Homework is also an instrument that helps to provide students with key skills

What is homework?

Homework, within a subject or class, is all work and study undertaken outside class time. This includes assignment work, study for tests and exams, work done at a local library, at lunchtime, etc. Regular homework is a valuable part of the learning program of any individual student.

The purpose of homework is to:

- Develop self discipline;
- Promote organisational skills;
- Increase independence; although this is not a substitute for the development of independence during class time;
- Consolidate and build upon the classroom experience;
- To enable transfer of information and skills from one setting to another;
- To enable continuity and progression in skill development;
- Prepare for new work;
- Allow the production of quality work that reflects the student's capacity;
- Provide an opportunity for identifying areas of student interest which they can pursue independently;
- Allow for enrichment.

Finishing off incomplete work from class time is not a valid form of homework. A student who is consistently behind during lessons needs to have their program adjusted to suit their developmental level. Students need to know the purpose of the homework that has been set. They should be given the outcomes that they should achieve from each set piece of work.

Outcomes from homework

Skills that require researching, analysing, synthesising and processing information should be achieved from homework tasks. Concepts will be learned. Students will gain confidence in the learning and in monitoring their own progress. Organisational skills will be developed from homework. Homework handed in to the teacher provides valuable feedback to the teacher. It also provides an opportunity for parents to see what their child is learning and to share the learning experience.

Homework must be set to meet the individual needs of the student. For some students repetition and revision are essential. For other students whose personality is of a particular type, they will resent completing exercises once they have mastered a particular skill. Homework should be modified for the individual student. In many cases homework will be open-ended and different expectations made of students with different abilities. The type of homework set will vary from one faculty to another.

In the Primary School

In K-2 homework will be optional, at the discretion of the individual teacher and in consultation with the parents. A language sheet may be given each week and some Language and Mathematics activity set to consolidate concepts learned in class that week.

The Home-Class teacher and Language teacher will set homework in Years 2-3. Homework will generally be set for each week rather than on a night-by-night basis. Each student should read aloud for 10-15 minutes each night. The purpose of homework is to reinforce concepts learned in class. Homework will be set for the individual student rather than set class exercises. The reading tasks will vary from one student to another. Those students who are experiencing developmental delay with reading will be given readers that are appropriate to their specific level at that time.

The Home-Class teacher and Language teacher will set homework in Years 4-6. In years 4-6 the Language homework may take the form of contract work for the week or set homework for the evening.

Regularity and amount of homework

All students from Year 3 will have homework set regularly. As a general rule there will be no weekend homework other than reading and occasional assignment work set for students in the Primary School. Homework for all Primary students should not exceed 1 hour and should be much less than this for younger students.

In the High School

English, Geography, Science and History homework may be in the form of study for tests, and formal assignments or essays. On occasions follow-up tasks from the day's lessons or reinforcement exercises will be set. Homework may not generally be set on a nightly basis but for an extended period where the student is expected to organise their time to meet an ultimate deadline. Set assignments will be allocated class time in which the research and inquiry skills are taught. They will not be set just as homework tasks.

In the High School, in some subjects, homework may not be set nightly. In this instance homework will be set over a period of time to enable the student to self-monitor their work, to work at their own pace and level, and to enable students to achieve personal objectives. In such cases teachers should provide a schema mapping out a plan of development and completion of the homework task. For items such as assignments indications of timing for each stage of development of the assignment should be provided.

Writing a creative piece takes time and students need to arrange their personal schedule to ensure they set aside adequate time to do a task. Similarly research tasks take time. The time required will vary from one student to another. It is for this reason that many tasks will be open-ended to enable the more able and faster working students, and those intrinsically interested in the task, to operate at their preferred level. The number of major research tasks set each year will be limited to a maximum of 3 per subject in the High School.

In the lower years of the High School, homework may be more prescriptive and set 2 to 3 times a week in most subjects. Homework will be set for one week in advance except in those subjects that require homework to be completed for the next lesson.

In some subjects homework will be set for the next lesson. This type of homework is to reinforce the work learned during that lesson. Research indicates that memory is best served by revision within 10 minutes and then again within 24 hours. Homework may be set for that evening in PD/H/PE and Mathematics. In Language and Music, homework is required each night in the form of practice of instruments and spoken language. Frequency of practice is of primary importance in these subjects.