

AMERICAN ACADEMY JUNIOR SCHOOL, LARNACA



HOMEWORK POLICY

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AMERICAN ACADEMY JUNIOR SCHOOL

HOMework POLICY

Aims of Policy

- To provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework.
- To identify our shared views of good practice.
- To establish how homework will be organised and how we ensure progression across the school.
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.
- To make clear the ways in which we aim to ensure that the policy makes an important contribution to the quality of teaching and learning in the school.

Definition

At the American Academy Junior School we view homework as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of curriculum time which reinforces, extends or enriches current learning.

Purpose

The purpose of homework is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning. It enables children to practise and consolidate skills and aims to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension. Finally, it aims to enable children to take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners and to develop perseverance.

Good practice

At the American Academy Junior School, we believe that the following principles exemplify good practice.

- ❖ That staff and parents are involved in developing the policy and that it is a process which takes place over time and results in the completion of a written guidance document.
- ❖ The policy is co-ordinated by senior members of staff.
- ❖ A variety of approaches are used to ensure that parents and children are aware of homework expectations and organisation. These can include meetings, booklets etc.
- ❖ Homework allocations are made clear.
- ❖ Homework is set in a structured way to help children develop regular study patterns (with parental help if needed).
- ❖ There is regular feedback and praise for completed work and a system in place for responding to children who fail to complete.
- ❖ The reasons why homework has not been completed are investigated before action is taken.
- ❖ In planning homework, teachers set clear learning intentions and tasks are appropriate.
- ❖ There is a clear system for monitoring how the policy requirements are being fulfilled.
- ❖ The policy is reviewed regularly with the School Development Plan.
- ❖ Each child in Grades 4 to 6 is provided with a Homework Diary in which they will complete tasks set.

Range of Activities

A variety of tasks are used to meet planned learning objectives.

These can include:

- ✓ Speaking and listening activities
- ✓ Reading
- ✓ Spelling and word investigations
- ✓ Book reviews
- ✓ Reading comprehension
- ✓ Independent research
- ✓ Practical maths investigations
- ✓ Collecting items linked to a theme
- ✓ Skills practice across a range of areas
- ✓ Data collection
- ✓ Educational games

Organisation

Progression is planned from Pre Junior to Grade 6 through the provision of appropriate activities and the increasing expectations we have of our children as they move up through the school.

In Pre Junior, children are expected to complete a task or activity linked to the Early Years curriculum, which lasts for around 10 minutes. This will include phonics and reading.

In Grade One, children are expected to read with an adult for around 10 minutes each day and complete tasks in a number of curriculum areas, once a week.

In Grades 2 and 3, children are expected to read for around 15 minutes and practise their weekly spellings each day. In addition they complete tasks in a number of curriculum areas. Each task should take about 20 minutes.

As children move into the upper Junior School classes, they are expected to take increasing responsibility themselves for the completion of their homework.

In Grade 4, children are expected to read for 20 minutes, practice daily spellings and complete a 20 minute task per week in each of the core areas.

In Grades 5 and 6, there is a minimum expectation of 20 minutes per day spent on individual reading (or to an adult if this is appropriate) practising daily spellings and the completion of at least one 30 minute task in all core areas which include literacy, numeracy, Greek and science.

The children may be asked to present homework on separate sheets of paper. Class teachers will decide if it is acceptable to word process a piece of homework. Generally homework is expected to be handwritten by the child and of a good standard of presentation.

Roles and Responsibilities

Subject or class teachers will plan purposeful activities with clear learning intentions, which are linked to the curriculum content. They will respond to children's efforts, providing encouragement and reward and will investigate the reasons for homework not being completed before responding with sanctions.

Parents have an important role in supporting children's efforts. They need to be aware of what homework is set and provide both encouragement and an appropriate environment for its completion.

Children are responsible for completing tasks as requested (with increasing independence as they move through the school) and to take responsibility for organising any information or equipment they require.

In Pre Junior to Grade 2 children are given frequent encouragement to complete homework to a high standard. Good examples of completed tasks are shared with the class and homework achievement awards will be presented to those achieving the expectations set in class. Records are kept of work completed and if appropriate children are given a further opportunity to complete by a set date. Any problems arising are discussed with parents.

In Grades 3 to 6 children who complete their homework are praised in class and there is regular encouragement. Those who fail to complete work on a frequent basis are asked to carry out the activity during recess. Parents are informed if a child regularly fails to complete homework.



American Academy Junior School

A Guide to Supporting your Child with Homework

What is Homework?

At The Oaks we view homework as being a supported or independent task which is undertaken outside of curriculum time and which reinforces, extends, or enriches current learning.

Why is it set?

The purpose of homework at The Oaks is.....

- f* To provide opportunities for parents to be involved in children's learning.
- f* To enable children to practise and consolidate skills.
- f* To broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension.
- f* To enable children to take responsibility for their own learning, become more independent and develop perseverance.

How you can help:

- f* Provide a quiet area where your child can work. It is helpful to switch off the TV to aid concentration.
- f* Offer your help and support for younger children to complete tasks.
- f* Expect older children to work independently, but make it clear that you are there if needed.
- f* Encourage your child to complete homework on the day set, as the task will have just been explained. If they leave it until the day before it is due in, they may find that they need resources that they do not have to hand. The setting of homework several days in advance enables children to develop skills in organising their time. Younger children will need your support in moving towards this.
- f* Check your child's Home School Learning Diary regularly.
- f* Take an interest in the homework and encourage your child to take a pride in the presentation of written tasks. Work should be handwritten by your child in pencil or a suitable handwriting pen, unless directed otherwise by your child's class teacher.

What does it look like?

Homework involves a range of activities including the following:



