



ANDERSON PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONALE

Homework, when carefully designed, is a powerful formative assessment as well as a tool to help pupils revise and clarify what he/she has learnt in class. We believe that learning continues to take place after the child leaves school, and the homework set becomes the tool to facilitate this learning process. In addition, homework provides pupils the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom, cultivate good study habits and develop skills and attitudes that will encourage them to be responsible learners.

AIMS

Homework enables pupils to:

- develop the important skills of independent study, as well as the responsibility and self-discipline of working without immediate control.
- recognise the link between good study habits and higher standards of achievement.
- activate prior knowledge and assess pupils' understanding.
- practise, consolidate and extend work done in class and prepare future class work.
- check that they have understood what was taught in class.

GUIDELINES

1. Homework comprises written work and preparation work (e.g., learning for spelling and dictation, class test, semestral assessment and research, etc.).
2. Homework should be meaningful to what is being taught and is appropriate to the pupil's abilities.
3. Pupils and parents should be aware of the expected time of the piece of homework.
4. The teacher will introduce and explain the piece of homework and pupils will follow-up with the completion of the task.
5. Feedback on pupils' achievements, difficulties, participation etc. will be regularly provided by teachers and parents.
6. An average estimated amount of time that pupils would spend to complete their homework assignments daily (cumulative estimated time required for all subjects for the day) is as follows:

<i>Level</i>	<i>Estimated Average Time Spent</i>
Primary 1 & Primary 2	45 minutes
Primary 3 & Primary 4	1 hour
Primary 5 & Primary 6	1 hour 30 minutes

7. Pupils who are not able to finish the work set in class will also need to complete it at home.
8. Under special circumstances, more time may be required to complete homework assignments.
9. P6 pupils can be given more work as the academic year progresses, in preparation for PSLE.
10. English and Mother Tongue Spelling will not be conducted on the same day. If there is a public or school holiday, spelling will be postponed to the next school day.

During the school holidays homework assignments will be issued. The estimated average amount of time that pupils would spend on each subject during the holidays is as follows:

<i>Period</i>	<i>Estimated Average Time Spent on Each Subject</i>
March Holidays	1 hour 30 minutes per subject
June Holidays	2 hours per subject of written work Home-Based Learning (P2– P5) <i>Using the school's LMS portal, pupils are assigned and scheduled homework assignments.</i>
September Holidays	1 hour 30 minutes per subject
PSLE Marking	Home-Based Learning (P1 – P5) <i>Using the school's LMS portal, pupils are assigned and scheduled homework assignments.</i>
December Holidays	Reading assignments (EL & MT) will be given. <i>Reading tasks will be drawn up by EL & MT Departments.</i>

11. Closer to cultural festivities (i.e. Chinese New Year, Hari Raya Puasa, Deepavali), however, we would want to be sensitive to the family needs. During these festivities (during term time), homework assignments will not be assigned. Any spelling activity or a test will also not be conducted on the school day after the festive period.
12. Teachers are mindful that pupils will not be overloaded with homework and practice papers in the week before Semestral Assessment (SA1 and SA2). Pupils are to use the time to revise for their subject examinations.

ROLE OF PUPILS

To benefit maximally from the value of homework, pupils should do the following on a daily basis:

1. refer to the whiteboard in the classroom for the homework assignments.
2. record the homework assignments in the Pupil's Diary.
3. note the deadline for the completed work to be submitted.
4. understand what needs to be done for all the given homework assignments.
5. seek assistance from classmates, friends, teachers and parents/guardians when difficulties arise.
6. organise the textbooks, workbooks, worksheets and files systematically.
7. ensure that the homework assignments are brought home to be completed and not left in school.
8. attempt all homework assignment with determination and give their best.
9. ensure the standard of their homework is high, i.e. it is neatly presented and in the correct format.
10. have a home study timetable.
11. have a dedicated and neat study area at home, which is away from distractions such as the television and the computer.

ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents/Guardians play an important part in the children's/wards' education. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give pupils the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents/Guardians can support their children/wards by:

1. taking an active interest in the homework.

2. checking their children/wards' Pupil's Diary daily to view the homework assignments for the day.
3. spending time to go through their children/wards' school work.
4. spending time to supervise their children/wards in doing the homework assignments and learning through the homework assignments.
5. reminding the children/wards to complete the school homework before doing the tuition work (if any).
6. encouraging their children/wards to be an independent learner by allowing them to attempt and complete their work on their own.
7. checking the presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
8. guiding their children/ward to set aside a regular study time and establish good study habits.
9. consulting teachers on their children/wards' progress.
10. ensuring that outside clubs/activities do not hamper their children/wards' quality of work and put them under undue pressure.
11. providing the school with information about any problems through the Pupil's Diary or by contacting the teachers/school directly.
12. providing a conducive environment for their children/wards to study and complete their written assignment. The study area should be neat and quiet, and away from distractions such as the television and the computer.

CONCLUSION

The school strongly believes homework help pupils to consolidate their knowledge and skills, and cultivate lifelong habits of independent and self-directed learning. With the understanding, support and collaboration of parents/guardians as our partners in education, we will be able to ensure that homework works for our pupils.