



ALEXANDRA COLLEGE DUBLIN

Alexandra College Junior School Homework Policy

Homework provides the students with the opportunity of revisiting learning experiences encountered during the school day and of practicing the skills and concepts associated with those learning experiences. In the senior classes, homework is designed to challenge the students' ability and provide opportunities for creativity. All students are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability-no more, no less.

Why give homework?

- To re-enforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skills and to develop a work ethic

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Homework will only be given on Fridays if it has been neglected during the week.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the Junior School Head, children are sometimes given "homework off".

What is the content of homework?

Ideally, homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. The balance is not always possible and can vary from day to day. It should be noted that homework devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written information/items and finishing work started in class. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

How much (time) homework?

The following are guidelines for time spent on homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time.

Preschool

LGLower – no homework

KGUpper – 10-15 minutes Reading to be completed nightly with parents' assistance and supervision.

J1	30 mins.
J2	30 mins
J3	40 mins
J4	40 mins
J5	45 mins to hour
J6	1 hour

Leisure Time Reading

It is very important to cultivate the habit of reading. Leisure time reading is essentially an out of school activity yet it does not always fit into our homework model. It is very important to foster and develop the habit of daily reading.

- Encourage children to choose books independently
- Talk to children about their choice of books and be aware of what they are reading in their spare time.
- Encourage children to spend time reading on a regular basis. This should include weekends and holidays.
- Continue reading aloud with your child as long as she considers it to be an enjoyable activity
- Let your child see you reading
- Join a public library

How much help should parents give?

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework.
- Endeavouring to prevent interruptions or distractions to the work e.g. TV, iPads
- Children should do written work themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty
- If a child is having difficulty with homework, the parent can help with further explanation, but not by actually doing the homework for the child.
- If a child has substantial difficulty completing a particular task within a reasonable period of time (15 mins), the task should be left uncompleted so as not to cause frustration and anxiety for the child. A note explaining the difficulty should be given to the teacher so that the problem can be addressed the following day.

How often should parents monitor homework?

Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening. The journal is a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers. Please check that your child records her homework neatly on the correct page and ticks each item when completed.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Teachers like to check homework on a daily basis.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once a week.
- Children themselves under the direction of the teacher may check some items of homework (and classwork). This is a useful part of the learning process for children.

When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When your child cannot do homework because she cannot understand some aspect
- If the time being spent on homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

Ratification

This assessment policy was officially ratified by the Board of Management on May 2014

The policy will be reviewed in March 2017

Signed: _____

Date: _____