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Embassy International School Homework Policy

The teaching/learning model shows us that the first step in direct instruction is when a teacher models the task being taught; the next step is when the pupil attempts this task with the teacher's support; this stage is repeated with the teacher offering ever less support and finally the pupil attempts the task alone.

The way the brain works defines that we need to repeat skills and facts learned a number of times at spaced time intervals.

One way of learning is to create our understanding of knowledge, to construct that knowledge from ideas presented. We can do this alone, or together in a group.

One way of reinforcing learning is to recreate it through discovery, often from different angles and perspectives, through different methods, to those we used initially.

Homework supports all of these positions.

Homework is **not** a substitute for learning in a classroom, but something which supports and complements it.

Children must develop in a balanced way and have a life beyond school, an opportunity to develop friendships and hobbies and passions. If a child is swamped by many hours of homework every day they cannot do this and will face a challenge in developing into balanced adults.

At the Embassy International School we remain aware of our setting of homework to ensure that no child has an excess on any one evening. Homework will serve the functions described above, and not replace learning in the school.

All pupils should do their homework **by themselves** and to the **best of their abilities** as requested by the teachers and as per academic honesty policy. For collaborative tasks it should be clear to the teacher who has done what.

Deadlines and grades (Secondary)

As part of the learning process and as a life lesson, timeliness is of vital importance in returning homework.

Poor timeliness affects learning, it affects organisation in life and has serious consequences in certain processes.

When assigned, the teacher will give a deadline for the homework to be returned for grading and educational purposes.

After the deadline passes, the potential grade will be capped at a 4. A 'second chance' window of grace will be provided of one week to submit the homework for this capped grade.

A 'third chance' window will be provided where the grade will be capped at 3. This window will be a maximum 3 more school days.

In the case of a child's illness, the deadline will be automatically adjusted to reflect that a sick child should be allowed to recover. Each day of sickness will result in an automatic deadline extension of one day.

Late homework submission will automatically be reported to the form tutor for consideration in the monthly behaviour report. Lateness, whether caused by disorganisation or by lack of will, affects the learning environment negatively and should be seen as a detraction from school culture.

Three or more late homework assignments will lead to a pupil being invited to attend an after school homework catch-up session supervised by a teacher.

Consistent failure to complete work within the time assigned without good reason will be treated as a disciplinary matter derived from academic honesty policy and consequences may follow from this.

Difficulties

If a pupil has difficulty with homework this should be reported to the teacher and form tutor, as doing so helps a teacher identify further needs of a pupil. Likewise if there is some reason why homework is not done on time, the teacher should be notified by the parent.

As a school, we recognise that children have outside events and activities and sometimes we need to show understanding to support that. This should be balanced by a negotiated arrangement for submission or alternative forms of work.

Dr Lindsay Davidson, Head of School
Embassy International School
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