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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 coordinate 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 as requested by the teachers. For collaborative tasks it should be clear to the teacher who has done what.

If a pupil has difficulty with homework this should be reported to the teacher, 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.

Failure to not complete homework without good reason will be treated as a disciplinary offence and consequences will be applied.

Dr Lindsay Davidson, Head of School

Embassy International School

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