

COGNITA

Homework Policy

ELIS Villamartín

2018- 19

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- ✓ Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do at home.
- ✓ Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- ✓ Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- ✓ Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to learning.
- ✓ Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- ✓ Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- ✓ Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self discipline needed to study independently.

Aims for homework at El Limonar International School Villamartín

We set homework for all of our children;

- ✓ To reinforce concepts learnt in school.
- ✓ To revise or extend knowledge.
- ✓ To support the idea that learning takes place inside and outside of school.
- ✓ To forge home-school links

The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember when setting homework that there are a number of points to consider:

- ✓ Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
- ✓ Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
- ✓ Homework will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.

Lower School: EYs

Recommended time allocation

Homework at this level is based on developing reading skills in English and Spanish and has an emphasis on children and their parents experiencing this development together. There is no set time allocation for out of school work at the EYFS stage.

Examples of Homework tasks

- ✓ Reading books

- ✓ Counting up and down stairs
- ✓ Letters of the week
- ✓ Worksheets that reinforce numeracy, literacy and *Lengua* concepts
- ✓ Fastening and unfastening buttons and zips etc.

Lower School: Years 1 to 6

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact their child's class teacher/tutor or relevant Headteacher.

The following is the recommended time allocation for homework at Key stages 1 and 2. From Year 2 all students are set English and Spanish and tasks every day and Mathematics tasks at least three times a week.

<i>Years 1 and 2</i>	-	<i>15 minutes each day</i>
<i>Years 3 and 4</i>	-	<i>30 minutes each day</i>
<i>Years 5 and 6</i>		<i>40-50 minutes each day</i>

Set reading in English and in Spanish is additional to the above and is expected on a daily basis. Students in Immersion English groups will have a distinct homework structure that will focus far more on English language tasks for vocabulary acquisition and for reading, writing and speaking practice.

Homework Tasks

Listed below are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

- ✓ Reading
- ✓ Spellings
- ✓ Literacy activities
- ✓ Numeracy activities
- ✓ Topic activities
- ✓ Planning presentations
- ✓ Researching topics

Upper School: Years 7 to 13

Recommended time allocations

The following are minimum requirements for the majority of children (there will be exceptions according to a student's individual needs). There is a published homework timetable for all students in Years 7 to 11.

- **Year 7** - students should receive approximately 20 minutes of homework at a time for each subject. This means that 2 subjects will set homework a night.
- **Year 8** - students should receive approximately 20 minutes of homework at a time for each subject. This means that 2 subjects will set homework a night.
- **Year 9** - students should receive approximately 20 minutes of homework at a time for each subject. This means that 2-3 subjects will set homework a night.
- **Year 10** - students should receive approximately 30 minutes of homework at a time for each subject. This means that 2-3 subjects will set homework a night.
- **Year 11** - students should receive approximately 30 minutes of homework at a time for each subject. This means that 2-3 subjects will set homework a night.
- **Years 12 -13** have no limit to their study time although there is an expectation that students at this level will undertake one hour of independent study for every hour of contact time they have (this includes work to be completed in study periods)
- 'Finishing-off' tasks that are set in class can be in addition to the above only if a student fails to make satisfactory effort during their classroom instruction.
- Reading tasks in English and Spanish can be given in addition.

Students in the English Access course (EAC) will follow a distinct homework structure. EAC students' homework will focus far more on English language tasks for vocabulary acquisition and on reading, writing and speaking practice.

School Journal/Homework diaries

From Year 2 onwards, homework diaries will be used for the children to record title, day, length, etc, of homework to be completed (please ensure this is clear in their diaries to avoid any ambiguities which might prevent some children from completing their work). There is the expectation that parents will sign the diaries once a week and that subject teachers and Form Tutor will check for any messages from parents concerning homework (or any other matters). Key stage 5 students can develop their own system for recording and managing homework if they prefer to.

Role of the Class Teacher

- ✓ To provide an explanation of homework tasks to the students as well as to parents when necessary including giving guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at parent-teacher meetings or at any school academic event

- ✓ To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- ✓ To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes.
- ✓ To set homework that takes equal opportunities into account.
- ✓ To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- ✓ To reward and praise children who regularly display a strong commitment to homework tasks
- ✓ To mark homework when necessary (with reference to the ELIS marking and presentation policy) and give feedback to pupils.

Role of the EY, Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form Headteachers

- ✓ To check compliance with the policy.
- ✓ To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- ✓ To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.

Role of Parents

- ✓ To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts all homework.
- ✓ To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- ✓ To take an interest in their child's homework topics and to encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.

We are keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

General

- ✓ Homework that is collected from pupils must be acknowledged or marked according to the school marking and presentation policy. It gives the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued part of school life. Marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils or to groups of pupils.
- ✓ When a student has a school trip for the whole or part of a school day they will not normally be set homework from the lessons replaced by that trip or visit.
- ✓ When a student misses school because of a school sporting or academic commitment, they will be given homework in order to catch up what they have missed.
- ✓ **If a child is absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.**

- ✓ **It is not possible to give homework when children take holidays in term time or if a child is taken out of school by their parents for visa or administrative issues.**
- ✓ If a child is absent for a length of time, e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what academic work should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. The teacher should consult the relevant SLT member about this first.
- ✓ We do give homework during the school holidays but not for public holidays. Work set at Christmas will be limited; more will be set at Easter (especially for Years 10 to 13) ELIS students will receive significant amounts of work for core subjects (Maths, English *Lengua* and Sciences) during the extended summer holidays: This is done to ensure that students start each new academic year with a good recollection of what has been previously learnt and that students are prepared for the start of new courses such as IGCSE and A-Level.

Version 2 of policy written by C.Eversden and the SLT in August 2018