

DELIA (MAN KIU) ENGLISH PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY

According to the Basic Education Curriculum Guide (2014) prepared by the Curriculum Development Council, meaningful homework serves different functions including the following:

- It not only consolidates classroom learning but also prepares students for new learning and facilitates self-learning.
- It helps students understand their own progress and problems, and provides them with opportunities to learn to solve problems.
- It helps teachers identify students' learning problems and adjust the teaching plans and strategies so as to provide timely feedback to students and enhance their learning effectiveness.
- It provides information on the knowledge students have acquired and the skills, attitudes and values they have developed.
- It gives effective feedback on the planning and implementation of the curriculum.
- Parents can understand their children's progress and learning styles so that timely support can be provided for their children.
- It allows parents and schools to work together to find ways to help students to improve or encourage them to develop their potential further.

School Policy on Homework

- Homework should be designed according to the functions mentioned above and to match the needs of students at different levels.
- Homework given should be aligned with the school curriculum and has clear learning goals. It is quite impossible to draw a standard amount of homework across all subjects since different subjects have different types of homework and it is the quality of the homework rather than the quantity that matters.
- Different types and formats of homework should be assigned to motivate students in learning. Interesting and challenging tasks can be designed and given to students to develop their habit of self-directed learning, independence and creativity.
- Variations in homework requirements are allowed in order to provide flexibility to cater for students with different abilities and learning styles.
- Homework should be able to help students plan and monitor their own learning progress. Assignments which last a longer time such as projects and book reports allow students to plan their own pace of work, delve into subjects that interest them and integrate various information, ideas and opinions.

- Homework should be conducive to developing students' interests in and habit of reading so as to build a solid foundation for life-long learning.
- Mechanical drillings and recitation or other forms of memorization should be selectively used to help students build a good language foundation.
- Regular reviews of the homework given to students are important in order to meet the changing needs of students and the curriculum.
- Parents are informed of their involvement in helping students to support their children with homework at the beginning of the year, Orientation Day and Parents' Days etc. They are timely informed whenever problems in students' homework completion arise in order to work out a solution.

Setting Meaningful Homework

When subject panels set homework for students, teachers may note the following points:

- The homework given should be relevant to the curriculum and has a clear learning goal, aim or objective.
- When setting homework, teachers should provide sufficient guidance and explanation in order to ensure that students understand the requirements and ways to finish the homework.
- A variety of approaches and styles can be used for designing homework to motivate students. Apart from giving worksheets and supplementary exercises, offering interesting and challenging tasks, e.g. experiments or surveys for students, can be considered. Oral reports on discussion with parents and friends, model-making and other activities that interest students can be set.
- The homework given can help students to plan and take control of their own learning, see their own progress, develop good studying habits and work in groups to develop collaboration skills.
- The homework given can help improve students' thinking and promote deeper understanding of a specific theme or issue.
- The homework given can cater for individual differences.
- The homework given can relate classroom learning with students' lives.
- There may be short-term or long-term assignments. The former help students to review and practise what has been covered in class while the latter, such as project work, require students to plan their own pace of work, dig into the areas that interest them and present the information and ideas that they have formulated.
- Timely, specific and constructive feedback should be given to students to help them understand their strengths and weaknesses.
- Recognition should be given to students with outstanding performance to stimulate their motivation.
- Meaningful homework not only motivates students to learn independently after class but also connects what they have learnt with the content or issues of the next lesson.