

Gongshang Primary School Homework Policy 2024

1. Definition of Homework

Homework refers to any learning activity that schools require students to complete outside of curriculum time, regardless of the mode of delivery (i.e. pen-and-paper, virtual / online). This includes assignments and projects but not revision of schoolwork or studying for tests and examinations.

2. Rationale for Homework

Homework, when used appropriately, can reinforce students' learning, provide feedback on their progress and cultivate a healthy disposition towards continual learning.

- i) Effective use of homework can:
 - (a) reinforce learning and deepen understanding of lessons taught;
 - (b) allow students to regularly practise, and apply skills and concepts taught;
 - (c) develop good study skills and habits; and
 - (d) encourage greater ownership and responsibility for independent learning.

- ii) Homework also provides parents with:
 - (a) timely information on the learning progress of their child; and
 - (b) opportunity to be involved in the child's learning.

3. Setting Homework Assignments – General Considerations

i) Amount of Homework

The amount of homework assigned takes into consideration the following:

- (a) For holistic development, students need a balanced life with adequate time for family bonding, social activities, personal interests and rest;
- (b) The amount of homework given should take into account students' overall workload and the competing demands on their time (e.g. CCA, competitions, enrichment classes, preparation for upcoming Weighted Assessments, tests and examinations); and
- (c) The homework assigned to students should be age-appropriate, and the amount of homework given should be differentiated by the academic levels.

Guidelines for Homework Hours:

Levels	Average Daily Time to be spent on Homework across all subjects
P1 & P2	1 hour
P3 & P4	1 hour 20 minutes
P5 & P6	2 hours

- * Subject teachers will coordinate their assignment of homework to ensure students are not overloaded by indicating the homework assigned on the class whiteboard.
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 - * EL and MTL departments will coordinate weekly spelling so that they do not fall on the same day of the week.
 - * Reading is an essential and it is expected that all students read daily. As such, reading assignments (e.g. reading aloud to others, reading quietly) may also be given as homework.
 - * Tasks or assignments given through the Student Learning Space (SLS) that would require students to complete outside of curriculum time will also constitute as homework.
- ii) Teachers will not assign homework to be completed on Public Holidays as students could be involved in the celebration of festivals, spending time with their loved ones or taking a break from formal learning.
- iii) The school is mindful that school holidays are meant for students to take a break from formal learning and they should therefore not be given excessive homework. As a guide, if homework is to be given during the school holidays, the daily homework load will not be more than 50% of the daily load given during the school week.

iv) Types of Homework ^[1]

In general, there are four types of homework that will be assigned by the teachers. The purposes of the homework are:

Type	Purpose	Examples
<p>Preparation <i>(Getting ready before)</i></p>	<p>To help students inform and prepare themselves for the coming lessons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting materials for class demonstrations • Background readings and library research • Learning of spelling and multiplication tables
<p>Practice <i>(Doing again after)</i></p>	<p>To provide students with the needed review and reinforcement about content covered in a previous lesson, so as to facilitate retention of facts and deepen understanding of concepts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbook, worksheet and revision exercises • Post-lesson assignments / tasks and reporting findings to the class
<p>Extension <i>(Going beyond)</i></p>	<p>To guide students expand on concepts that were taught in class, as well as to pursue knowledge collaboratively and independently</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-based work (group as well as individual) • Creative writing • Non-routine tasks based on the topics covered
<p>Creative <i>(Putting together)</i></p>	<p>To provide opportunities for students to engage in learning activities that include analysis, synthesis and evaluation, requiring them to be more inventive and resourceful</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasks requiring students to come up with their own ideas related to class topic and then share those ideas with the class • Creating a new invention based on a class topic

¹ Rutherford, William; Foyle, Harvey C. “How To Develop an Effective Homework Program.” *Tips for Principals from NASSP (October 1988)*. Education Resources Information Center (ERIC).

4. Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders

Parents and **students** all play an important role in ensuring that homework serves its intended purposes.

i) Students should:

- (a) understand the purpose of homework and what is expected of them;
- (b) use “My Learning Journal” to keep track of homework instructions and deadlines;
- (c) manage time well to ensure that homework is completed and submitted on time;
- (d) give his / her best effort in completing homework; and
- (e) review feedback from teachers on homework submitted.

ii) Parents should:

- (a) create a home environment conducive for studying and completion of homework (i.e. an area with good lighting and space for studying, and is free of distractions);
- (b) supervise and provide support for your child’s learning;
- (c) set a regular schedule for completing homework for each day;
- (d) check “My Learning Journal” daily for the homework assigned so that you can monitor the progress and completion status of the homework with your child;
- (e) reinforce good study habits and attitudes by encouraging and motivating your child;
- (f) be mindful of the stresses arising from school homework and out-of-school activities, and help your child prioritise his / her time among these activities; and
- (g) work in partnership with the school and teachers to support your child’s learning and development.

5. Non-completion of Homework

Teachers will work with students to find out the reasons for any non-submission of homework. Intervention strategies to support the student in this area will be based on the reasons and if need be, a parent-teacher conference will be arranged. If the student is medically excused from school for an extended length of time, arrangements can be made on how the student can be supported with homework and other areas of academic needs.