



SYDNEY JAPANESE
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
シドニー日本人国際学校

Homework Policy

HOMEWORK POLICY

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

The International Division teachers agree that homework forms an integral part of a child's educational development.

RATIONALE

- Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning while developing sound study habits and time management skills.
- Homework needs to be challenging, meaningful and relevant, catering to all intelligences and individual learning styles.
- Homework provides important opportunities for parents to share their child's education strengthening communication between home and school.

QUALITY

Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:

- appropriate for each student's age and ability
- relevant to each student's needs
- purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- varied and challenging, but achievable
- built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.

Homework tasks should be assigned by teachers with a specific, explicit learning purpose. On completion, teachers should acknowledge student effort and provide feedback related to student learning.

MANAGEABILITY

The quantity of homework needs to be manageable so that teachers can ensure quality, and can provide feedback to students on completion.

Homework that is manageable for students will:

- be age appropriate
- consider students' outside of school hours commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition, and home responsibilities
- take into account students' access to resources and technology beyond school
- be clearly communicated to students
- provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling
Show and Tell	Show and Tell	Show and Tell				
Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese
			HSIE topic research	HSIE topic research	HSIE topic research	HSIE topic research
			Science topic research	Science topic research	Science topic research	Science topic research

- Activities will differ each week.
- Some year levels will sometimes include additional activities linked to the curriculum.
- Clear instructions will be given to students on type of homework, expectations, and when homework is to be completed by.

AMOUNT OF TIME TO BE SPENT ON HOMEWORK

This varies from year to year. The following is a guide of the approximate time per night (Monday through Thursday) that the children may allocate for homework:

Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
15 to 20 minutes	20 to 30 minutes	20 to 30 minutes	30 to 45 minutes	30 to 45 minutes	45 to 60 minutes	up to 60 minutes

This time guide includes Japanese homework and reading time.

THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER

- To set the homework either on a daily or weekly basis (teacher's discretion)
- To communicate clearly with the students of homework expectations.
- To inform the children of when the homework is to be completed by.
- To organise times for checking the homework and monitoring student progress.
- To ensure that the work is marked/checked regularly.
- To communicate individual class homework guidelines with the parents, outlining the class teacher's expectations and the role of the parent

THE ROLE OF THE PARENT

Parental involvement in monitoring homework assists in setting good patterns of study. It is a good opportunity for parents to observe and play a part in their child's educational journey.

- Provide a suitable study environment for your child to be able to concentrate
- Allocate a special homework time
- Support and supervise, encouraging independence. Assist and give guidance when necessary, resisting the urge to do the work for the child.
- Check that the homework has been completed and report any problems with application to the class teacher
- There is no need to correct the homework, simply review what has been completed.

ACTION TAKEN WHEN HOMEWORK IS NOT COMPLETED

Asking parents to check that work is completed is meant to alleviate the need for action. **Homework becomes a student-parent-teacher responsibility.**

- If the child has another commitment, then the parent should write a note or email and the child should complete the work as soon as possible.
- If the child is absent, the work should/should not be completed (teacher's discretion) PLEASE NOTE: This will depend on the actual work involved.
- If a child does not complete his/her homework regularly, he/she may have to catch up during part of lunch recess or homeroom time. Parents will also be notified.
- A comment could be made by the class teacher on the homework sheet / diary / task for the parent to read so as to be made aware of the situation.
- If the homework does not improve, then the parent could be contacted and some arrangement agreed upon e.g. monitoring the work over a week.
- Children will be encouraged and praised for effort. **Homework should not be considered a form of punishment, but a part of the child's educational development.**

Each year level is different. Each teacher has different expectations. With parental support, homework should become a meaningful part of the child's learning and set good patterns of concentration and application for the years of study ahead.