



# Homework Policy

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## 1. Introduction

NDSOPA understands the importance of homework to consolidate learning and knowledge and also to act as an element of independent learning.

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some students who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

## 2. Aims

Homework enables students to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- Develop research skills.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- To enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self discipline.
- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage parental co-operation and support.
- Create channels for home school dialogue.

### **3. Sanctions**

When homework is not completed, teachers should initially support the student and ensure the tasks set meet the student's needs. If this is so, then sanctions should be used.

1. Class teacher - discussion and negotiation with student, imposition, informing parents via diary.
2. Head of Education - discussion and negotiation with referred student, imposition, informing parents by diary. Letter to parents and detention if necessary.
3. Tutors - through weekly monitoring of diaries, identifying students with homework problems across several curriculum areas and refers to Principal. Principal discusses and negotiates with student, applies sanction or support where appropriate.

### **4. Incentives**

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class.

Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Credits and rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework.

For exceptional pieces of homework, a faculty letter or postcard may be sent home.

### **5. Quantity**

The subject teacher will set a minimum of 1 homework task per week.

Homework tasks can vary in length weekly.

If the subject teacher wishes to set an ongoing project as a continual homework task, discussion must firstly be made with the Head of Education and Principal.

## 6. Homework Club

Students are reminded that there is a daily homework club/break scheduled into the timetable for them to benefit/make use of.

## 7. Responsibilities

### 7.1 The role of the student

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the homework diary.
3. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
4. To attempt all work and give their best.
5. To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

### 7.2 The role of the Form Tutor

1. To include homework in student mentoring where appropriate.
2. To see that homework is being set and recorded.
3. To check that the diary is being signed by the parent/guardian.
4. To note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents.

### 7.2 The role of the Class Teacher

The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The teacher will:

1. Set homework according to the timetable.
2. Provide the stimulus.
3. Give full and comprehensive instructions.
4. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
5. Mark and return all homework promptly.
6. Provide help and support.
7. Inform the Head of Education and Principal as appropriate, when problems arise.

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