

# Home Activities Policy

## **For Parents**

We have chosen to move away from the traditional term 'homework' and refer to home activities. The type of activities given should reflect the educational philosophy of our school as well as the abilities of the individual student.

We welcome any comments you may have on this policy document or your experiences regarding its implementation.

### **Why have we produced this policy document?**

Teachers, students and parents need to be clear regarding expectations of what should or should not be done. This document has been designed to present a clear policy, recognisable as something being implemented throughout the whole school showing a logical relationship between what is given to students in different classes.

### **Who needs home activities and why?**

All students need and receive home activities for a number of reasons.

They need to build and expand their skills (e.g. research skills) in places besides the school environment and need to learn to accept responsibilities and organize tasks in an appropriate manner. Some are preparing for the world of secondary education while some may need extra reinforcement, or extension, of what they have already been learning at school. Individual circumstances (EAL, Support Staff or HCL) can also be relevant so it is logical that not all activities will be relevant to all students.

### **What can we expect the activities to be like?**

The activities are intended to be useful and have a clear purpose with a set date for completion. They should motivate and stimulate students to use skills that are taught at school; e.g., self help skills, research skills or reading skills and not just writing skills.

They should be school-related activities, which the students are able to do. The activities should be given regularly and, to some degree, predictable.

### **How will the teacher ensure the parents are aware of what the activities are and when they need to be completed?**

Each teacher, and therefore each class, will have its own system based upon specific needs.

They are responsible for informing you what their system is.

### **What does the teacher have to bear in mind?**

Is the activity relevant to this student?

Are there special circumstances? (e.g. home situation)

Does the student have (additional) home activities from other school sources? (e.g. EAL, Support Staff or HCL)

**Are there special circumstances?**

We do not set home activities when a student does not understand what the activity is about or if you, the parents, have to teach the activity first. They will be discontinued if they are creating stress situations at home. This will only occur after teacher / parent consultation.

An activity will not be given if the task is not relevant to the pupil (e.g. has already mastered the task and is able transfer the task to other situations) or the student already has more essential activities from other school sources i.e. EAL, Support Staff and HCL.

An activity will not be a task that could have been finished in class (there may be exceptions).

Other causes for not giving home activities are when the pupil is too sick to attend school (there may be exceptions), during holidays, unless parents are consulted and it is really necessary and, finally, when parents have requested extra holidays as this does not fall under this policy for the simple reason they will not have completed relevant work in class first.

**What will happen if activities are not being completed?**

The teacher will: -

- establish why the task was not completed.
- talk to the student and organise an agenda to help in completing activities accordingly.
- meet with the parents and discuss the situation in order to improve it

If after 3 weeks the situation has not improved then home activities will not be continued and the office, the student and the parents will be informed of this.

**Home Activities: How much? – How often?**

<b>Groups 1 to 3:</b>  (Pre-) Reading Activities; Self-help skills; research skills; A maximum of three 10 minute activities per week.	<b>Group 6:</b>  1 to 3 times per week: each activity taking up to 30 minutes.
<b>Group 4:</b> 1 to 3 times per week: each activity taking up to 15 minutes.	<b>Group 7:</b> 3 to 5 times per week: each activity taking up to 40 minutes.
<b>Group 5:</b> 1 to 3 times per week: each activity taking up to 20 minutes.	<b>Group 8:</b> 3 to 5 times per week: each activity taking up to 50 minutes.

Individual differences result in this only being of real use as an approximate guideline regarding the time expected for completion of any one activity.

## **Violenschool, International Primary School**