



Loreto Convent School

Gibraltar

HOMEWORK POLICY

This policy reflects the ethos of Loreto Convent School and has been compiled and reviewed with the involvement of children, staff and Governors.

The current evidence and research shows that the quality of homework assigned is likely to be more important than the quantity. Research has established that homework has a positive effect on learning, particularly at the middle school levels (Xu, 2010; Zimmerman & Kitsantas, 2005). Although homework's effectiveness has been challenged by educators, parents, and students (Kohn, 2006), it continues to be an important educational supplement used by most teachers to enhance the learning experience of their students (Patall, Cooper, & Wynn, 2010).

1 Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. Loreto Convent School also acknowledges the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children.

2 Rationale for homework

- 2.1 Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development.
- 2.2 At Loreto Convent School, we recognise that children benefit greatly from the mutual support from parents and teachers encouraging them to learn both at home and at school.
- 2.3 Homework is seen as an important way to establish a successful dialogue between teachers and parents.
- 2.4 One of our aims is to develop independent learners and we believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

3 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- To enable the children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- To help the children develop skills of an independent learner.
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
- To enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth.
- To provide educational experiences not possible in school.
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow the children to practise skills taught in lessons.
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Types of homework

4.1 In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1, we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings and mathematical tables as part of their homework.

Sometimes, we will ask the children to discuss a topic at home prior to studying it in school e.g what toys were popular when their grandparents were young and if possible, to bring examples into school to show the other children.

When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school library and the internet.

4.2 At Key Stage 2, we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined above, but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set English and Mathematics homework routinely each week and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practice at home.

We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood. In years 4 to 6 project work will be given.

(breakdown of homework is available for each year group).

5 Amount of homework

5.1 We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. We expect Key Stage 1 children to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this may well include reading with a parent. We expect children in years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 15-30 minutes per night on homework and children in years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 30-45 minutes per night.

5.2 We give the children in Upper Primary school a diary where they record the homework, and where parents and teachers make any relevant comments. The diary

is to be signed on a weekly basis by child's teacher and parents. Children in Lower Primary school have a reading record.

6 Children with special educational needs

- 6.1 We set homework for all children as a normal part of the school life. We ensure that all tasks are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

7 The role of the parents

- 7.1 Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their children to complete the homework tasks that are set.
- 7.2 We invite parents to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.
- 7.3 Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home and by discussing the work that their child is doing.
- 7.4 We ask parents to check the home/school diary or reading record regularly and to sign it as requested.
- 7.5 If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should in the first instance contact their child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Headteacher.

Seen by Governing Body: