



Oporto British School

To Strive for Success and to Serve *Est. 1894*

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is an integral part of the learning process at Oporto British School and its importance in encouraging pupils to acquire sound study habits should not be underestimated. In fact, homework, is anything children do outside the normal school day, in response to guidance from the school, that contributes to their learning. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development, especially in the primary section. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to encourage the development of the self-discipline, responsibility, independence and confidence needed for successful study throughout the school.
- to develop an effective partnership between the school and the home in pursuing the aims of the school and 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 the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.
- to exploit external resources for learning.

Types of homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning. We set a variety of homework activities within the Infant department, the organization of which is outlined below.



Oporto British School

To Strive for Success and to Serve *Est. 1894*

Primary

Prep

From Term 2 children take home the letter sounds, every week, that they have been learning to reinforce recognition and letter formation at home. When the teacher thinks they are ready to do so, the children start to take a phonetic book home from school to read with parents.

Reception

Children continue the Reading Scheme Books, daily reading of ten minutes per day is required. New children to the class, who have not previously learnt the letter sounds, will take home the letter sounds to reinforce at home before beginning on the reading scheme.

Form 1

The children continue with a range of different reading schemes; taking books every week to read at home. Spellings are sent home weekly to learn. Portuguese homework (a simple sheet) is also given weekly.

No Maths homework is given, but parents are encouraged to play Maths games at home and to undertake some practical Maths activities.

Form 2

Again, reading books are sent home weekly. Children prepare for Accelerated Reader quizzes. Spellings continue to be sent home, including a grammar sheet to support the spelling.

A simple Maths homework sheet is given every week.

Portuguese homework is given every week. After Christmas the children are also given a Portuguese book to read at home every 2 weeks.

We give guidance to parents on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading or working with their child at home. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. For example, in the history topic on toys, we ask children to find out what toys were popular when their grandparents were young, and, if possible, to bring examples into school to show the other children. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons.

In Upper Primary we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined above, but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set literacy and numeracy homework routinely each week, and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school through practice at home.

Upper Primary: Recommended Reading:

Form 3 –	1.5 hours per week
Form 4 & 5 –	20-30 mins per day



Oporto British School

To Strive for Success and to Serve *Est. 1894*

Form 3

Pupils will receive the equivalent of 20 minutes of homework 5 times per week (e.g. 20 mins. on two week days and one hour at week ends). The homework will be chosen from the areas of handwriting, spelling, numeracy, reinforcement work covered in class and some investigation work for projects. Children will be expected to read for approximately 15 minutes every day.

N.B. children who fall behind with class activities may require extra homework tasks.

Form 4

Pupils should receive approximately 20 minutes of written work per weekday, together with 20 minutes of reading. At week-ends this will increase slightly, to 30 minutes. In Year 5 the children will also be required to do some research work for projects.

Form 5

Pupils in Form 5 will be expected to do 30 minutes reading per day and 30 minutes of set written homework. The written work will usually be Language or Maths but both subjects should not be given on the same day. In general, daily homework tasks will consist of completing class work plus a small amount of extension work. At weekends, pupils will be expected to complete a set piece of work in both Literacy and Numeracy.

In other subject areas, homework may be given either as completing a class task or some research work but several days will be given in order to do this.

Secondary

All homework will be published on the website:

https://oportobritishschool.showmyhomework.co.uk/school/homeworks/calendar*

All deadline dates will be published on this website. All homework handed in by the deadline date will be marked and returned promptly with feedback and an effort grade. Form 6-10 must also write their homework in their exercise books in case there are technical issues and as a permanent record of homework issued which can be reviewed throughout the year.

Homework Expectations

FORMS 6 - 8 30-40 minutes per subject

FORMS 9 - 10 40-60 minutes per subject

FORMS 11 / 12 3 hours per subject

Homework will be set **each night** in **three subjects** with the exception of Friday when up to four subjects can be set. Revision is not included in this although approaching examination time, homework will be mainly revision type exercises.

Length of time to complete an assignment will obviously vary from student to student. Teachers will try to differentiate homework with respect to the needs of individual students.

Homework not handed in on time, with no parental explanation, will not be marked by the teacher.



Oporto British School

To Strive for Success and to Serve *Est. 1894*

Students might be set homework that takes the form of a project over time (several weeks). Teachers will help students plan their project by breaking it up into manageable assignments and setting short-term deadlines/targets. Teachers will check and comment on each stage of the “work in progress”.

Presentation and Homework

Presentation of work is always important. Careless presentation will create a negative impression on your reader who may be distracted from what you have to say. Many readers will make judgements about your general ability and even your attitude, if the presentation of your work appears to be careless.

- Do not allow your books to be decorated with stickers or graffiti.
- Always write the title and the date above written work.
- Try to draft your work then check for content, organisation and accuracy.
- Take care with layout making proper use of margins and indented paragraphs.
- Write in blue or black ballpoint and only use colour when this is necessary to aid a presentation.
- Proof-read all work for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Do not hope for the best – make sure *your work* is correct otherwise your marks and grades will suffer in all subjects.

Homework for IGCSE and IBDP

In Forms 9, 10, 11 & 12 Homework is given as and when each department sees as appropriate. This is so that the students become more accustomed to organising their study time and learn to use any spare time to prepare their coursework. They can expect two hours or more homework per night and on the weekend.

Individual subjects Homework policies.

There are guidelines set out for the types of homework given by each subject dependent on the nature of the subject. This is outlined in the individual subject Handbooks.

Pupils

In Primary and Secondary, 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.

Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home, prior to studying it in school. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons, and occasionally we ask children to take homework that they have started in school, when we believe that they could benefit from spending further time on it. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the internet at home.

No pupil should spend more than the stipulated times on homework tasks, especially on weekdays. If children are spending much more time on homework, parents should consult their child's class teacher or tutor. If for any legitimate reason children are not able to complete a piece of work, parents should inform the child's class teacher either with a written note or a verbal message. If a pupil misses a lesson or a homework they should make every effort to consult the teacher or fellow class members and then catch up what has been missed.



Oporto British School

To Strive for Success and to Serve *Est. 1894*

Homework is marked according to the general school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

Amount of homework

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. However, we are conscious of the fact that the children have a long day at school and that those children travelling a distance or who have after school activities may not arrive home till after six o'clock.

Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We may set additional tasks and/or more complicated tasks for those who are especially able.

The role of parents

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 child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Head of Department/Section. Guidelines are provided in the Parents' Booklets given to parents at the beginning of every school year.

Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material, which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Recommended sites that will best support the children's learning are provided for parents. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet. For instance the Encyclopaedia Britannica link on our own website is far preferable to Wikipedia!

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

Last reviewed June 2019

Next Review: June 2022