



KIRSTENHOF PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMework POLICY

The purpose of homework is to enhance and reinforce the process of learning. Homework needs to be relevant, worthwhile work which can be completed effectively at home. It should be as positive an experience as possible adding to the culture of learning, including the family as partners in the process.

Explanation of concepts:

The purpose – In a world where parents are both working and therefore leaving homework to be completed in the evenings, it is important that teachers are very sure of what learning is being achieved when setting homework.

Enhance – Homework must be an extension of school concepts learned in school or consolidation, best practised at home.

The process of learning – Homework should involve the development of skills needed for a life of learning.

Targeted – Every bit of homework should have a specific aim. It cannot just be something we do.

Worthwhile – Any homework needs to be worth the sacrifice. We need to be careful that we don't give homework to the whole class because some individuals need extra work or a more structured approach.

Cannot be completed effectively at school. – Homework needs to be something that is best done at home.

It should be a positive experience if possible – It is all about attitude. A positive attitude toward school work improves learning exponentially. Does any child really learn anything if they are just doing homework to get it done?

A culture of learning – This is the ultimate goal and therefore anything that enhances this culture should be encouraged and anything that detracts should be minimised.

The family as partners - Parents need to be aware of what is happening at school. They will then be able to reinforce concepts on an informal level. They need to set standards for their own children and they need to show that learning is important.

Grade requirements - What is set for homework and the quantity of homework set is heavily dependent on what is appropriate for each Grade. The teachers in each Grade need to inform parents about their expectations with regards to homework.

There are four types of homework: practise, preparation, extension and completion.

Practice assignments reinforce newly acquired skills. For example, children who have just learned a new method of solving a mathematical problem should be given sample problems to complete on their own.

Preparation assignments help children get ready/prepare for activities that will occur in the classroom. Children may, for example, be required to do background research on a topic to be discussed later in class.

Extension assignments are frequently long-term, large-scale projects and assignments that parallel class work.

Completion of class work is important to ensure that the children are always up to date. This is especially for children who are involved in co-curricular activities during class time and may have missed out.

OBJECTIVES

- To give children the opportunity to undertake school work independently and under their own conditions
- To provide an opportunity for independent acquiring of knowledge and mastering of skills.
- To provide additional practice, increasing the amount of time children are actively engaged in learning
- To increase a child's independence, personal responsibility and individual accountability
- To facilitate more rapid movement through the curriculum
- To increase communications between parents and the school
- To contribute to children's' and parents' understanding that the school holds high expectations of pupils.

By the end of Grade 6 Kirstenhof children are expected to take responsibility for their own homework. With this in mind parents will be encouraged to work with educators to train the children so as to reach this goal.