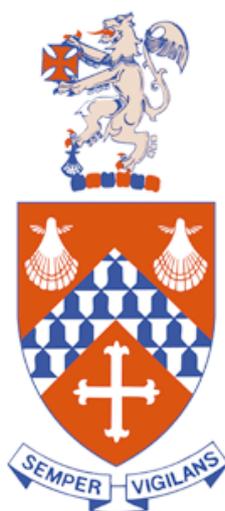


# Hill House International Junior School



## Homework Policy

## Introduction

Hill House International Junior School believes that homework, provided that it is correctly understood and managed by teachers, pupils and parents, can contribute to an enhanced learning experience. The nature of homework tasks change and develop as a pupil moves through the school.

## Purpose of Homework

- To consolidate, extend or complete class work.
- To build core foundation skills and knowledge, especially in Maths and English.
- To develop independent study skills.
- To help teachers assess the degree of understanding of class work.

## Allocation of Homework

- At the beginning of the year, Heads of Section will compile a homework timetable for their form.
- Heads of Section will also provide recommended time allocations of homework for their year group. These are made clear to pupils in the first few weeks of the school year, in appropriate subject lessons or in form periods. They are also sent out to parents as part of the first section newsletter of the year via the school mailing.
- For pupils in Reception, Years 1 & 2, homework is gradually introduced and is based around activities which consolidate learning. For example, pupils in Reception will learn sounds for Phonics and bring home reading books on a regular basis. In Years 1 & 2 pupils will be given activities to help them with their learning of Phonics, spelling, reading, and Maths.
- For pupils in Years 3 & 4 one piece of homework to support learning of the core subjects of English, Maths and Science plus 10 minutes reading is set per evening. Pupils will also receive one piece of homework per week in each non-core subject such as French & Humanities. Each piece should amount to 20 minutes.
- For pupils in Year 5 & Year 6 (Terms 2 & 3), homework should amount to 30 minutes for any single

piece of homework. On some evenings two pieces of homework will be set, on others, particularly in Year 5, just one piece. Homework should not last for more than one hour per evening.

- For pupils in Year 6 (term 1 only), Years 7 & 8 homework should amount to 30 minutes for any single piece. On some evenings three pieces of homework will be set, on others just two. Homework should not last for more than one hour thirty minutes per evening. Of course, revision will form a more significant share of homework time in the run up to important internal or external exams. There may be times when homework is inappropriate and on these occasions pupils will write 'No homework' in their diaries. For example, teachers will be sympathetic to pupils during periods when there are other commitments, such as participation in school productions, or external or internal testing.
- Form teachers will monitor pupil diaries at least once a week during form time to ensure that homework is being written in properly. Verbal and/or written feedback will be given to pupils to guide them in organising and completing their homework.
- Pastoral Director, Academic Director and Directors of Study will monitor a selection of diaries on a regular basis and at least once a term.

#### Typical Homework Tasks and Guidelines

- The homework will be differentiated by task or by outcome in order to cater for the different abilities within the class.
- Tasks should match the specified time as recommended by Heads of Section (See above).
- Tasks should be varied over time to include:
  - reading: every night from Reception to Year 4.
  - phonics and spelling practice from Reception to Year 4..
  - recording information
  - independent creative or non-fiction writing in English and in French
  - learning/memorizing facts, dates, vocabulary
  - problem solving
  - practical/creative tasks
  - research/ project\* (\*projects will be set during term time only)
  - It is not unreasonable to ask pupils to use the internet – but pupils should however not be

expected to browse or surf the web. They should be directed to specific sites.

#### Holiday Homework

- No homework will be set in the summer holiday for any year group.
- No project will be set during a holiday. Such pieces of homework will be set during term time and over a period of 2 or more weeks.
- During Half Terms, Christmas and Easter breaks, holiday homework will be set as follows:
  - In Reception, Years 1 & 2 certain tasks will be set to encourage continuity of learning. For example, pupils will consolidate their knowledge of Phonic Sounds. Reading books will also be given to all pupils to help foster good habits and maintain regular reading. These tasks should not amount to more than 1 hour per week off altogether.
  - Pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 & 7 will not, as a rule, be given holiday homework, neither will Year 6 from January onwards. For these year groups, homework will be provided on parents request if needs be, but teachers should not encourage it. If homework is requested, teachers should not give more than one piece (30 minutes) per week.
  - Pupils in Year 6 (term 1 only) & Year 8 will be set a reasonable amount of homework in examination subjects only as part of their revision programme for the Pre-Tests, 11+ & 13+ Common Entrance examinations (Year 6 will not be given holiday homework from January onwards). Teachers will be expected to provide revision lists/ guides and give past examination papers that amount to 1 hour per subject and per week.
- Year 6 girls will be given homework in Maths, English, VR, NVR and Science (where applicable).
- Year 6 boys will be given homework in Maths, English, VR & NVR.
- Year 8 will be given homework in Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, French, RS & Latin.

#### Pupils' Responsibilities

- Take their homework diary to every lesson in which homework may be set.
- Write down in the diary the necessary details about homework set.

- Take home the homework sheet along with all the books and equipment required to complete the tasks that have not been done during prep time.
- Hand in the completed homework at the appropriate time.
- Stick the homework sheet in their exercise book once it has been marked.
- Note and act upon feedback from the teacher, verbal or written.

#### Teachers' Responsibilities

- Set homework tasks that are relevant and form a coherent part of the work in hand.
- Set homework according to the homework timetable, except in cases where no task is appropriate.
- Ensure that the work set is reasonable in terms of time allocation.
- Ensure that the needs of individual pupils are taken into account, either by setting differentiated tasks or by setting tasks that allow for differentiated outcomes.
- Vary the type of homework tasks set.
- Allow sufficient time in class for homework to be explained and recorded in diaries.
- Mark and return the work as soon as possible following the school's Marking Policy.
- Give verbal feedback as often as is feasible.
- Form tutors will monitor diaries every week during form periods. Targets for improving the recording of homework will be given where necessary.

#### Parents' Responsibilities

- Provide a suitable working environment and a regular routine.
- Show an interest in homework and assist in planning and organising time
- Encourage and promote independent work habits.
- Ensure that the time allocation is adhered to. If a task is not completed within the time, or if there is anything the teacher should be aware of, make a note in the diary.
- Communicate with the Form Teacher if problems arise.
- Establish an understanding that homework is an important and serious aspect of school life and the pupil's responsibilities.

Monitoring

- The SLT will review this policy and the Marking Policy annually.
- They will check planning for evidence that a range of homework tasks, including differentiated tasks, are being set. They will also monitor the setting of tests so that they are spread evenly throughout a term.
- They will take note during annual work scrutiny samples from each class of homework tasks set, pupils' completed work, paying particular attention to marking and feedback.
- Classroom observation and work scrutiny investigations by Directors of Study and Subject Leaders will include monitoring of how this policy is being successfully implemented.

<b>Authorised by</b>	<b>Resolution of the Proprietors</b>
<b>Signed on behalf of the Proprietors</b>	<b>Edmund Townend</b> .....
<b>Date</b>	<b>20 September 2018</b>

<b>Effective date of the policy</b>	<b>20 September 2018</b>
<b>Review date of the policy</b>	<b>20 September 2019</b>