



**BLOUBERG**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
**SOUTH AFRICA**

***“A South African School with an International Perspective”***

## **BLOUBERG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY**

### ***Introduction:***

Homework is part of our overall school policy. It encompasses a variety of activities which the students are asked to do outside lesson time, either individually or with parents or carers.

Homework is seen as an extension of schoolwork, not as an additional piece of work. In supporting a student's homework, parents and carers are supporting their learning as well as raising their achievement and self-esteem through the interest they take in their work. Homework is designed to act as a meaningful and worthwhile experience for the students.

### ***Aims and Objectives:***

***Through this policy the school aims to:***

- Reinforce what the student learns at school.
- Establish a regular homework routine.
- Foster positive attitudes towards independent learning.
- Prepare students for their next stage of learning.
- Develop study skills and concentration as well as a positive work ethic.
- Provide a link between the school and parents.
- Revise and consolidate new concepts.
- Communicate to the child that learning takes place both outside as well as inside the school.
- Develop organisational and time management skills.

### ***Expectations and Responsibilities:***

The school believes that homework makes the greatest contribution to learning when students and parents/carers are clear about their expectations.

## **TEACHERS**

***Teachers are expected to:***

- Set differentiated tasks for students within the year level.
- Provide sufficient information so that students and parents/carers know what is required.
- Make time scales for completion and submission explicit.
- Mark homework and give feedback as appropriate.
- Celebrate effort and achievement in homework tasks.
- Check and sign message/homework books daily.

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**IES INTERNATIONAL BLOUBERG SCHOOL (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED**  
(Registration No. 2010/019037/07)

## PARENTS

*Parental support is crucial to ensure the successful progress of every student.*

*Parents and caregivers can help their children by:*

- Providing a suitable place and time and the necessary equipment to ensure the successful completion of the homework task.
- Encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework.
- Supporting reading development by listening to their child read, reading to their children and discussing texts with their children.
- Parents are expected to take an interest in their child's homework, give help and guidance where necessary.
- Parents should ensure that the homework is completed on time, signed and returned to school on the correct day.

## STUDENTS

- Students should listen carefully to instructions given about homework.
- Students should hand in their homework on the stipulated day.
- Students should complete their homework to the best of their ability and take pride in the presentation of their homework.
- When students are finished their homework tasks, they should be responsible in packing their own suitcase immediately afterwards, ensuring that all they need for the day is ready.
- Students should spend the prescribed amount of time according to their year group everyday doing their homework at home. This said they may need to spend additional time doing homework.

## HOMEWORK CONTENT

Homework will comprise a combination of reading tasks, learning tasks and writing tasks. The balance between these tasks may vary from time to time and from class to class. Homework tasks will be set on Monday, to be handed in on the due date allocated by the class teacher.

## FOUNDATION STAGE

### ***Pre-Reception:***

*Suggested time: 15 minutes daily*

- Reading with an adult 5 minutes
- Letter sounds & sight words 5 minutes
- Counting & number games 5 minutes

Theme work and collecting and bringing materials for interest/nature tables.

### ***Reception:***

*Suggested time for Term 1 to 3: 25 minutes daily*

*Suggested time for Term 4: 35 minutes daily*

- Reading with an adult 5 minutes / Term 4: 10 minutes
- Letter sounds & sight words 5 minutes / Term 4: 10 minutes
- Counting, number games & number activity 5 minutes
- Written homework: 1x Literacy worksheet (per week) 5 minutes  
1x Numeracy worksheet (per week) 5 minutes  
(extended students will receive an additional activity)

Theme work and collecting and bringing materials for interest/nature tables.

## KEY STAGE 1

### **Year 1:**

**Suggested time: 35 minutes daily**

- Reading with an adult on a daily basis 10 minutes
- Learning weekly spellings 10 minutes
- Bonds & counting 5 minutes
- Consolidation worksheets 10 minutes  
-including written work, e.g. writing sentences using the phonic words or writing a book report.
- Occasional research worksheets

### **Year 2:**

**Suggested time: 40 minutes daily**

- Reading with an adult on a daily basis 10 minutes
- Learning weekly spellings 10 minutes
- Bonds, counting & timetables (Term 2) 10 minutes
- Consolidation worksheets 10 minutes  
-including written work, e.g. writing sentences using the phonic words or writing a book report.
- Occasional research worksheets

## KEY STAGE 2

### **Year 3:**

**Suggested time: 40 minutes plus 20 minutes for reading**

- Daily reading 20 minutes  
This does not include reading TO the child. Parents should continue to read to their children, selecting material that is 2 to 3 years ahead of their child's current reading level. During this year students should be encouraged to make the transition to silent, independent reading, but parents should still hear some reading out loud regularly. If students are reading silently the parent must ensure, through discussing reading content, that reading has been done. Ideally students will start reading to themselves for pleasure for lengthy periods e.g. half an hour at bed time.
- Learning weekly spellings & tables/bonds/Mental Maths 15 – 20 minutes
- Written work 15 – 20 minutes  
Generally homework will include some or all of the following:
- Worksheet tasks/research includes: Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Foundation Subject & additional languages.

### **Year 4:**

**Suggested time: 50 minutes plus 20 minutes for reading**

- Reading daily – reading with, or sharing a book with an adult at least twice a week, or more as appropriate.
- Learning weekly spelling words 15 minutes
- Subject homework 25 minutes
- Times tables/Mental Maths 10 minutes  
Generally homework will include some or all of the following:
- Worksheet tasks/research includes: Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Foundation Subject & additional languages.

## ***Year 5 & 6:***

***Suggested time: 1 hour plus 30 minutes for reading***

- Reading daily – reading with, or sharing a book with an adult at least twice a week, or more as appropriate.
  - Learning weekly spelling words 10 minutes
  - Subject homework 20 minutes
  - Research and project work 20 minutes
  - Mental Maths 10 minutes
- Generally homework will include some or all of the following:
- Worksheet tasks/research includes: Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Foundation Subject & additional languages.

Prescribed homework tasks are an integral part of the learning programmes undertaken and as such need to be completed thoroughly and on time. Should a student have required learning support in order to complete any activity please indicate this in colour, alongside the date and heading e.g. assisted by father/mother/guardian. Homework should be seen as an extension of formal work completed during academic time.

### ***Recording of homework from Pre-Reception to Year 6:***

All students are supplied with a homework book or file/message book. Homework is tabulated according to specific learning areas, delineating content and stuck into the student's message book. Homework is expected to be signed by the parent.

### ***Reading Record:***

Reading log sheets are to be kept by each student and signed by parents daily.

### ***Illness:***

When students are ill, a discretionary decision will be made as to the expectation with which they will be required to catch up homework missed. However, if a student suffers from an ongoing illness, the school and the parents may choose to formulate arrangements so as to ensure that the student is able to bridge gaps in vital parts of the curriculum which they may have missed. Homework will not be sent out for students who go on extended holidays during term time.

### ***Unsatisfactory homework:***

If a student's homework is deemed unsatisfactory or they simply fail to complete it, they may be asked to re-do the relevant tasks at home as extra homework. Consistently poor effort, will result in the student being given an incident and if necessary, detention.

### ***Monitoring, evaluation & marking:***

Teachers monitor the quality of the work completed for homework and evaluate its effect on student progress, self-esteem and motivation. Teachers will ensure that all work is marked and that students are given appropriate feedback (verbal, comments, symbols).

### ***A final note:***

Remember, homework is meant to be an enjoyable and worthwhile activity for all, and should not be allowed to cause distress to students, parents or teachers! Please discuss any concerns with the class teacher concerned as soon as they arise.