



## HOMEWORK

# GEMS MILLENNIUM SCHOOL, SHARJAH

REVIEWED IN: MARCH 2018 & MARCH 2019

### **POLICY ON HOMEWORK**

#### **THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK:**

- To encourage students to develop confidence and self-discipline so that they can work on their own, an essential skill for adult life.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- To extend school learning beyond the walls of the classroom, through additional reading, research, independent study and collaborative projects.
- To support home/school relationship.
- Provide parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and make them aware of the progress of their children.
- Challenge gifted and talented children.
- Promote independent thinking and research skills.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Actual time required to complete assignments will vary with each student's study habits, academic skills, and selected course load. These assignments will be set with care and ample time will be given for completion and submission. If a child is spending an inordinate amount of time doing homework, parents are advised to contact their child's teacher and if necessary, study habits are probed and appropriate intervention sought from the counsellor. In order to complete the curricula and enhance independent learning, teachers will set regular homework in all grades. The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

#### **THE THREE MAIN TYPES OF HOMEWORK ARE:**

**Practice exercises** - providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- Consolidation exercise e.g. math, including memorization of tables
- Practicing for mastery e.g. spelling words, annotations of diagrams, chemistry formulae etc.
- Revising information on a current topic



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- Practicing words, phrases learnt in a language other than English
- Reading for pleasure
- Essay writing

**Preparatory homework** - Providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- Background reading
- Reading eg: English text for class discussion
- Researching topics for a class unit under discussion
- Collecting items eg: geometric shapes.

**Extension assignments/ Holiday Homework** - Encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- Research
- Presenting their research and findings through ppt presentations and learning corner talks
- Writing - a book review
- Making or designing something – a piece of art work
- Investigations - in science and social science
- Researching- history, local news
- Information and retrieval skills eg:- using a home computer to find relevant information on the Internet and validating the authenticity of the source of information.
- Holidays should be used effectively to complete holiday homework assignments and all deadlines should be met.

Wherever possible homework should recognize the place of technology in today's world and the benefits of using technology such as home computers, E-mail and the Internet for organizing and accessing information. The school, however, has regard for equity issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged.

***It is important that students should have frequent and increasing opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies as independent learners.***



## GEMS MILLENNIUM SCHOOL, SHARJAH

### ROLE OF THE SCHOOL:

- Explaining to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework
- Providing quality homework activities related to classwork.
- Setting a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student
- Ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- Giving students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations, extracurricular activities and homework set by teachers
- Marking homework promptly and appropriately.  
In keeping with good learning practices, students are sometimes encouraged to correct the work of their peers as well as their own.
- Alerting parents of any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework.

### ROLE OF PARENTS:

- Taking an active interest in homework and knowing the homework policy.
- Ensuring that there is time set aside for homework.
- Encouraging and supporting students to complete homework.
- Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study.
- Encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events.
- Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set.
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of the homework and child's approach to the homework.
- Alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken under consideration when homework is being set or corrected.
- While parents' assistance in homework tasks is commended, students should be allowed to work independently as far as possible.

### ROLE OF STUDENTS:

- Being aware of the importance of homework and of the school's homework policy.
- Completing homework within the given time frame.
- Alerting parents to homework related concerns.
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents when difficulties arise.



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- Organizing their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to complete homework set in a reflective and appropriate manner.

**Being away on the day that homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it.**

- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary, students should see the member of staff concerned for help before the deadline
- Students should take pride in doing their best.

### AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK:

**Homework should not prevent students from participating in activities after school such as sport, music or clubs of any kind.** If your child is spending too much time each night on homework, please contact the school management. The following guidelines are approximate:

- Kindergarten – 30 minutes per day. Parents to read to the child every day.
- Grades 1 & 2 – Pleasure read (independent / guided)
- Grades 3 & 4 - 1½ hours per day
- Grades 5 & 6 – 1 ½ hours per day
- Grades 7 & 8 – 2 hours per day
- Grades 9 & 10 – 2 ½ hours per day
- Grades 11 & 12- 3 hours per day

### The days allocated for subject homework (Grades 3 to 8)

Day	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
	English		English	English	
		EVS/S.St.			EVS/S.St.
	Arabic	Second Language	Arabic	Second Language	Arabic
					Islamic Studies



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### SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:

- **Organization / Distribution of homework:** My Learning / School Diary
- **Non-Completion of Homework:** When homework has not been completed and submitted on time, appropriate action will be taken. This could include stay back at break time, or activity time or as deemed appropriate by the concerned teacher or Supervisor.
- **Plagiarism:** is unacceptable and the concerned students' work will not be marked. Homework will be reset to be completed by the students. Repeated offenders will receive counselling and be exposed to redressal measures such as framing the plagiarism policy for the class, conducting talks for peers on why plagiarism is in acceptable.

### POLICY FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

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. If a child has special need, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.