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SHERMITEX GLOBAL ACADEMY HOME WORK POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

There has been extensive research into the value of homework. Homework does not necessarily raise pupil achievement; however, it provides parents with a window into their child's learning at school. In addition, homework activities appear to be most effective when linked directly to class activities so that homework is part of the reinforcement process between school and home.

It has been found that parents can influence the homework environment by creating positive conditions for learning and encouraging children to complete tasks. A successful outcome for homework appears to be contingent on teacher preparation and the setting of 'real life' tasks, the motivation of pupils and the level of parental support available.

Overall, it seems that some homework is better than too much or none at all, however the time on homework needs to be reflective of the student's age and development.

2. RATIONALE

The purpose for assigning homework, is to give learner the opportunity to extend lessons, practice skills, engage in critical thinking and develop good working habits.
Homework can also serve as one form of communication between the teacher and the family. It is important that homework does not add stress to family life. Therefore, it is up to the child, family and teacher to share the responsibilities for homework.

Homework is aimed at consolidating learning, building confidence and reassuring independence;

- Homework tasks should be assigned by teachers with a specific and explicit learning purpose;
- The quantity of homework needs to be manageable;
- It must build on the knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class;
- Homework must be relevant and achievable;
- Other commitments, such as sport or cultural activities, will be considered;
- It should be flexible to allow for differing pupil circumstances and needs.

At Shermitex Global Academy, reading is not considered homework. We believe it is vital for families and children to spend time together with books. Parents reading to the children and children reading to their families. We will provide them with a weekly library book and daily reading books that the children choose to read at home. Our newly established reading scheme nurtures a love for reading and each and every child is challenged according to their individual reading level. All pupils should have the freedom to read every-

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night as we help each child develop the habit and turn them into a lifelong reader.

3. PROCEDURES

Homework is considered valuable when it is undertaken in partnership between home and school and when it provides parents with an opportunity to be part of their child's formal learning. Practices will aim to accommodate a variety of family circumstances and the range of parent beliefs about homework. Teachers will set clear, meaningful and purposeful tasks each week that aim to support pupils' classroom learning and provide parents with a chance to take part in their child's learning. Tasks will be kept to age appropriate time frames and will encourage parent involvement where parents are willing and able to assist. It is an expectation that all pupils will complete homework tasks, however, in the Junior Primary there will be no negative consequences enacted if a child does not complete their assigned homework.

Teacher's responsibilities:

• Homework tasks will be connected to the learning in the classroom for that week.
• It will be meaningful for the student and aim to contribute to student learning.
• Specific family circumstances will always be considered and homework seen as a means of including parents in the learning process.
• Homework tasks will be clearly outlined, concise and unambiguous.
• Homework tasks will be well prepared.

Pupil's responsibilities:

• To ask questions when something is unclear.
• To ensure homework is packed in the school bag before leaving the classroom.
• To complete all activities to the best of his/her ability.
• To return homework on time.
• To provide feedback to the teacher regarding their homework.

Family's responsibilities:

• To provide a routine and environment that is conducive to doing homework. For example, a quiet and consistent area and time, the necessary materials, etc.
• To offer assistance to the student, but not to do the actual homework for them.
• To notify the teacher when homework presents problems.
• To read school notices and respond in a timely manner.
• Homework and school notices will travel home as arranged by the class teacher.
• Manage homework time to fit into your family's schedule.

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4. AGE-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

We know that the amount of time it takes each pupil to complete various homework tasks will vary. The-following indicates what we believe is approximately the appropriate amount of time for children in each grade to spend on homework. If your child diligently does his/her homework, for the maximum allotted time and does not complete it, you may write a note to the teacher explaining the situation. If this is an ongoing-problem, please make arrangements to talk to the teacher directly.

Foundation Phase Guidelines

In Grade 1:

• Maths – No more than two pages of their Maths homework book per academic school day.
• English – A list of spelling, according to the child's ability, to practice every academic school day.
• Afrikaans – A list of spelling, according to the child's ability, to practice every academic school day.

Under the supervision of a parent, homework should not exceed 15 minutes per night.

In Grade 2-3:

• Some pupils may be expected to work more independently.
• Maths – No more than two pages of their Maths homework book per academic school day
• English – A list of spelling, according to the child's ability, to practice every academic school day.
• Afrikaans – A list of spelling, according to the child's ability, to practice every academic school day.

Homework should not exceed 30 minutes per night.

Intermediate, Senior and FET Phase Guidelines

In Grade 4 -12

Limited homework could consist of:

• Work not completed in class for English, Maths, Afrikaans, Natural or Social Sciences
• Preparation for tests
• Preparation for examinations **(Grade 6 to 12)**
• Preparation and research for projects
• Preparation for orals.

Specialist teachers must communicate with the class teacher in order to avoid various assignments/tests/projects being issued at the same time. The exception would of course be during exam time for Grade 6 to 12.