



HOMEWORK POLICY

POLICY FOR	HOMEWORK
PERSON RESPONSIBLE	Heads of Teaching, Learning and Assessment
REVIEW DATE	May 2026
REVIEWED BY	TLA Team
APPROVED DATE	June 2027
APPROVED BY	ELT
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW	May 2027
RELATED POLICIES	Teaching Learning Policy, Reading Policy, Literacy Policy

Executive Principal / CEO and Brand

Ambassador for GEMS Westminster Schools



Rationale

We believe that learning at school as well as at home is an essential part of our pupils' education. It is an important tool in consolidating learning and enhancing the curriculum for the students. It provides valuable opportunities to improve pupil's learning, develop independent learning, and lifelong study habits. It is an essential part of the learning journey in all subjects across the school. We also believe it is a vital aspect of the partnership between home and school. It enables the parent(s)/guardian to keep abreast of what their child is learning and involves the parent(s)/guardian in the learning process.

At Westminster School, Dubai we value family time and recognize the importance of quality family interaction. We, therefore, set homework tasks, which leads either to whole family participation, especially in FS and Primary or independent completion. Homework allows the student to become progressively more responsible for his/her own learning.

Aims of our Homework Policy

- To encourage skills and attitudes that help students maximize their academic progress.
- To consolidate and extend classwork, allowing for revision and practice or complete assigned tasks that have begun in school; thus, demonstrate progress and understanding.
- To provide opportunities for independent learning.
- To provide opportunities for research work, creativity and innovation.
- To encourage parent engagement and promote partnership between home and school.

Our Homework Programme

The tables below give the nature of the homework for different year groups:

Early Years Foundation Stage		
Frequency	Subject	Nature of Homework
Daily	Literacy and Mathematics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Picture reading with parent support. 2. Adult reading stories to the child followed by discussion on content.
	Skills development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fine motor fun activities, sensory play exploration with sand and water, messy play supported by parents. 2. Drawing, colouring, and simple crafts. 3. Building with blocks or completing puzzles 4. Practicing self-help skills.
Weekly	Literacy and Mathematics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listening: Listen to an adult reading a story, followed by discussion of content 2. Speaking: sharing learning with parents. 3. Reading: Phonic practice phonemes blending and segmenting. 4. Phonic activity book for FS2. 5. Writing: Handwriting practice for proper letter formation, drawing and labelling, writing their names and short captions. 6. Mathematics: Counting, number recognition, simple addition through games. 7. Maths workbook for FS2 8. Arabic workbook for FS2.



Key stage 1 and 2 – Years 1 to 6		
Frequency	Subject	Nature of Homework
Daily	English	1. 10 minutes Reading for pleasure – a topic /book of the student’s choice with parents/ siblings
	Mathematics	10 to 15 minutes practice for the concept for of the day from the Practice book or active learn (as per teacher’s advice).
Weekly	English	1. Students to work on their assigned module on the Readingwise platform. 2. Phonics practice for Year 1 and 2 3. Spellings practice for Years 1 to 6
	Mathematics	1. Times Table practice for Years 3 to 6 2. Workbook or learning app (as per teacher’s advice).
	Arabic A & B	1. Writing and spelling assignment 2. Reading assignment on the online platform Nahla Wa Nahil
Fortnightly	English	1. Practice worksheet with answer key in Phoenix 2. Classroom for independent practice
	Mathematics	3. Practice worksheet with answer key in Phoenix Classroom for independent practice
	Science	simple observations/research
End of unit	Arabic/ Science/ Social Studies	Practice worksheet with answer key in Phoenix Classroom for independent practice
	Islamic Education	Practice worksheet with answer key in Phoenix Classroom for independent practice
	Any homework given to the student needs to be completed and submitted only after one week. Preparation tasks: Students may have to complete work begun in class, search for materials such as pictures, research articles or prepare with the flipped tasks shared which are relevant to build up the next topic	



Years 7 and 8		
Frequency	Subject	Nature of Homework
Daily	English	Reading for pleasure - 10 minutes
	Mathematics	30 minutes practice for the concept for the day from the textbook/workbook or onto www.myimaths.com when appropriate (as per teacher's advice).
Twice in a week	Science	Exploring the concept learnt for the day as assigned by the teacher – 30 minutes.
Weekly	English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every Wednesday group or individual tasks will be assigned which need to be completed and returned by next Wednesday.• Consolidation of work in class through learning core content – Thrice a week
	Science	The assignment given is to be submitted in 3 days.
	Arabic A & B	Writing /Vocabulary assignment - Thrice a week Reading assignment on the online platform 'Nahla wa Nahel'.
	Islamic Education	Project/assignment on the topic covered
	Computer Science	Project work on the topic covered
After a unit/topic	Science	Unit wise project work to be submitted after two weeks
	SST/ Geography	Unit wise Activities/Assignment/ project
	French/ Urdu	Unit wise Activities/Assignment/ project

Years 9 to 13		
Class teachers set their class homework schedule and inform the students as per the guidelines given below:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All teachers to ensure that homework must be assigned every day.• Mathematics can be given every day• English to be given three times a week.• Social studies can be given once a week based on the topics covered every week.• Arabic/Islamic to be given twice a week.		
Homework and assignments will be subject wise given by the subject teachers which may be for a duration of 30 minutes or less per subject daily.		
	Daily	English and Maths

Year 9 and 10	Twice a Week	Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Accounting, Business Studies, Economics, ICT, Computer Science, Arabic and Islamic Studies
	Any project given to the student needs to be completed and submitted only after one week - 5 school days.	
Years 11, 12 and 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homework and assignments will be allotted subject wise daily according to the class timetable which may vary 40 to 1 hour per subject. They will be given homework according to the learning needs of the students or as per the discretion of the teacher on any day/s of the week. 	

- Daily homework is generally assigned at the end of the lesson. The teacher writes the homework on the whiteboard/PPT and allows time for the students to make a note of the same.
- Students are expected to revise the lessons with the help of the weekly /fortnightly resources uploaded in the Resource Bank on the Phoenix Classroom during the weekend or after the unit /topic. This will be purely an additional resource for extra practice, hence not checked or monitored by teachers for completion.

Note: The frequency and time mentioned in the above homework programmes for FS to Year 13 is the minimum requirement specified by the school. However, parents and students may choose to spend additional time on specific subjects, topics, or skills as they see fit.

Responsibilities

The role of the student

- Enter homework accurately in the student planner (Primary)
- Complete homework assignments within the given time, to the best of their ability.
- To return to class/subject teacher if unclear about the task, before the deadline.
- If a student is absent from school due to illness or any other valid reason it is the responsibility of the student to check what assignment was given during his/her absence and submit the assignment within the given time.
- The student must present a written explanation to the teacher when circumstances beyond their control prevent timely return of an assignment; this explanation will be signed by the parent/guardian.
- Homework is the responsibility of the student, not the parent, sibling, or any other party.

The role of the Teacher

- Assign homework in accordance with the homework policy.
- Set clear guidelines and submission dates for homework tasks.
- The teacher must ensure that age-appropriate tasks are assigned.
- Real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination must be encouraged through homework.
- The teacher must give sufficient time for submission of homework.

The role of Parents/Guardians

- Encourage a positive attitude toward homework.

- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and television.
- Encourage their child to work independently as far as possible.
- Encourage their child to organize himself/herself for homework.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.

Homework Feedback

Teachers will check that homework has been completed, and, depending on the task, students may 'peer assess' or 'self-assess' their work under the direction of the teacher. This may be followed by general feedback to the class.

Rewards and Sanctions

We recognize and reward students for their efforts in producing good homework in accordance with our school rewards system.

Rewards for Timely and Consistent Homework Submission

- Positive Points / House Points – For each completed assignment.
- Verbal Praise / Shout-outs – In class or assemblies for consistent effort.
- Class Rewards – If the whole class meets homework expectations, they earn a collective reward.

Sanctions for Incomplete or Late Homework

- Detention – Students complete the missed homework during a designated time.
- Loss of Privileges – Miss out on rewards such as extra activities or free time.
- Parental Communication – Email, phone call, or parent meeting after continued non-compliance.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Senior Leadership Team will monitor the implementation of this policy and collate feedback from parents/guardians, staff and pupils. This will be used to review the homework policy.