

# Sunridge Circle Primary School

## HOMEWORK POLICY

### Introduction

The benefits of assigning homework is an ongoing debate as it evokes very negative connotations with learners, parents and teachers. Although many people think of homework as doing more harm than good by causing copious amounts of unnecessary stress to everyone, others believe that it has great advantages for children by encouraging them to think more independently outside the classroom.

At Sunridge Circle Primary School we conform to the premise that homework is given for the learners and not to the parents.

### The Purpose of Homework

- Review, practice and consolidate concepts and skills.
- Prepare for complex or difficult lessons.
- Provide additional time for the exploration of a topic.
- Reflect on prior learning.
- Enhance and supplement learning.
- Develop time management skills.
- Foster independent learning.
- Encourage learners to use time wisely and helps develop and entrench positive study skills and habits that will serve learners throughout life.
- Encourage responsibility and accountability for work
- Assist learners to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials, and computer Web sites to find information.
- Improve thinking and memory.
- Familiarise parents with what their children are learning in school.
- Allow for structured quality time between parents and their children.
- Familiarizing parents with the quality and quantity of work that their children produce.
- To prepare the learner for the following day's lesson (i.e., reading ahead in the content subjects).
- Expose learners to out-of-school reference material.

### Four Types of Homework

As teachers determine what amount of homework is appropriate for their class, they must evaluate the purpose of all homework assignments. Generally, homework falls into four broad categories of learning.

1. Practice and consolidation
2. Preparation
3. Extension (applying skills to a new situation)
4. Integration (applying many different skills and knowledge sets to a task)
5. Homework to be done on days at home

## Tips for Assigning Homework

Once teachers have determined the type of homework to assign, thought should be given to ways to maximize the benefits to be gained from the assignment. Consider the following:

- **Length.** Evaluate the length of the assignment with care.
- **Purpose/Value.** Design activities that have meaning and support classroom learning. Communicate the purpose to the learners.
- **Direction.** Provide clear directions on how learners should complete assignments, how they will be graded, and when they are due.
- **Appropriateness.** Match assignment tasks to learners' abilities and interests.
- **Variety.** Keep learners engaged by assigning a variety of different types of homework.
- **Balance.** Assign a balance of both short- and long-range assignments. Too many long-range assignments will overload the learners.
- **Feedback.** Provide feedback as soon as possible.

Thorough, goal-oriented planning will help teachers justify the reasons for homework and the type of homework that is of most benefit to the learners. With these purposes in mind, as well as forethought and planning, homework can be a useful learning tool without encumbering learner and family time.

It is important that teachers take cognisance of the fact that the majority of our learners have no access to research facilities such as libraries and internet due to their poor socio-economic circumstances and that English is often not spoken or understood by their parents and guardians. Parents and guardians are often not available to assist with the completion of homework and assignments. Funds are often not available to purchase assignment requirements.

### Foundation Phase

The aim of homework in the Foundation Phase is to re-enforce and to consolidate the work covered in the classroom and to inculcate responsibility, accountability and good learning habits

Homework assigned to Grades 1 and 2 learners should not require more than 30 minutes to complete. Grade 3 learners may need to spend slightly longer on their homework tasks.

To assist the learners in learning discipline and responsibility, parents are expected to check that all homework assignments are completed and that the reading record book or the homework diary is signed daily.

All grades address the issue of homework at the parent orientation evenings held at the beginning of the school year. The requirements and expectations are stated clearly.

Although there are a number of common elements across the phase, homework varies from Grade to Grade.

## **Grade 1**

*Mathematics:* Complete work when assigned.

*Reading:* Complete reading assignments from their class readers each day.

*Sight Words:* Review weekly list of sight words daily to assist in reading proficiency. Activities to facilitate the development of phonic skills and numeracy concepts.

*DBE Workbooks:* Complete assigned pages

## **Grade 2**

*Mathematics:* Complete work when assigned.

*Reading:* Complete daily reading assignment from their class readers.

*Phonics:* Revise weekly phonics words.

*Afrikaans:* Complete work when given.

*DBE Workbooks:* Complete assigned pages

## **Grade 3**

*Reading:* Children read from their class readers Daily

*Lees:* Children read from their Afrikaans class readers Daily

*Spelling & Spel:* Spelling and spel lists should be revised on a daily basis and will be assessed weekly.

*Oral/Research:* Children are required to prepare and practice for these oral presentations. (At least a week's notice is given to the children.)

*DBE Workbooks:* Complete assigned pages.

Careless work, lacking in effort and or not meeting the required expectations will be sent home to be re-done. Generally, unfinished classwork is not sent home for completion, as this is evidence that the learner is having trouble in some area(s).

## **Intermediate and Senior Phase**

Every learner must have a homework diary and demonstrate responsibility for timeously completing all assignments. Homework is an important aspect of the learner's education. It consists of revision and consolidation of work previously done in class and should not be new or unfamiliar work. The homework diary is to be signed daily by the educator and the parents or guardians.

Homework is rarely set over a weekend unless the learner(s) or class has not demonstrated the required effort during the week or met the determined expectations.

- Every learner is expected to copy down the daily homework, as it appears on the homework board, in their homework book
- The onus is on the learners to complete assigned homework and to meet set deadlines for projects and research assignments and to fully utilize time set aside during class to work on projects and research assignments.
- Incomplete work will result in after school, Friday detention.

- Learners who are absent from school are responsible for completing all work and homework assigned during their absence. Formal Assessment Tasks will be completed upon the learners return to school or at a time date allocated by the teacher.
- Our education policy emphasis continuous assessment. We encourage our learners, with the support of their parent(s)/guardian(s) to complete all practical assignment tasks and projects to the best of their ability in order to obtain the best evaluation results.

### **Incomplete classwork or homework**

When a learner does not keep up with the work in class, he/she will be required to complete it at home in addition to the set homework.

If homework is not completed, a note must be entered into the homework diary and learners must ensure that parents sign the entry.

If homework is repeatedly not completed (the number of times is will be determined by the demerit system of the particular class, grade or educator), the learner may be sent to Detention and a meeting with the parent(s)/guardian(s ) will be initiated by the educator.

### **Grade 4**

Learners can expect to receive approximately 40 minutes of homework per day consisting of any combination of the following:

Mathematics (20 minutes).

English, Afrikaans, Natural Science and Technology, Social Sciences (History, Geography), Life Skills (20 minutes).

*DBE Workbooks:* Complete assigned pages.

### **Grade 5**

Learners can expect to receive approximately 50 minutes of homework per day consisting of any combination of the following:

English and Mathematics (15 minutes each per day).

Afrikaans, Natural Science and Technology, Social Sciences (History, Geography), Life Skills (15 minutes each per week).

*DBE Workbooks:* Complete assigned pages.

### **Grade 6**

Learners can expect to receive approximately an hour of homework per day consisting of any combination of the following:

English and Mathematics (15 minutes each per day).

Afrikaans, Natural Science and Technology, Social Sciences (History, Geography), Life Skills (20 minutes each per week).

*DBE Workbooks:* Complete assigned pages.

## Grade 7

Learners can expect to receive approximately an hour of homework per day consisting of any combination of the following:

English and Mathematics (15 minutes each per day).

Afrikaans, Natural Science, Social Sciences (History, Geography), Life Orientation, Technology (20 minutes each per week).

*DBE Workbooks:* Complete assigned pages.

## Formal Assessment Days

Usually no homework is given the day prior to a Formal Assessment being written, as this time is reserved for study and revision. Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the termly assessment programs.

## Practical Assessment Tasks and Assignments

Learners are supplied with written instructions of what is required for all practical assessment tasks and assignments, of which the core of the work is done during class time (not at home). Educators provide guidance, and the rough draft should be completed in class. Only the final draft—neat and worthy of presentation—is expected to be done for homework.

## Tips for Parental Assistance

- Provide an area that is conducive to studying—one with adequate light and free of interference (e.g., a desk in the bedroom away from others, radio, TV, other distractions).
- Assist in developing a routine for completing homework to avoid procrastination.
- Set up a regular study time.
- Be a motivator and a monitor—Ask about assignments and tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions or concerns.
- Maintain an open-line of communication with the educator so that problems can be resolved early.
- Help your child obtain the necessary reference materials, (e.g., help locate them in the home, provide necessary assistance on a computer/transportation to and from the public library).
- Please *do not do the work for your child*. Parental assistance in certain aspects of the homework or project work is at times helpful, but nothing can replace knowledge gained through personal experience. Being challenged is part of the learning process and essential to developing good problem-solving skills, managing time, and learning to cope with stress.
- Try to check that your child has completed his/her homework. In so doing your child will understand the importance of the task.
- Set realistic and obtainable goals.
- Praise your children's work. Mention academic achievements to relatives and friends.
- Avoid bribery or threats to obtain desired results.
- Avoid undue criticism of the educator(s) or the school in the presence of your children. Talk to teachers and not about teachers.
- Know the teachers – Attend school events, parent-teacher meetings. Ask about their homework policies and expectations and how you should be involved.
- Encourage daily reading.

- Set a good example-Do your children ever see you reading a book? Children are more inclined to follow their parent's example than advice.
- Make full use of incidental learning opportunities.
- Help learners to plan. On days when a lot of homework has been allocated or when there is an assignment to complete, encourage your child to break up the work into manageable chunks. Take a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.
- Be proactive – if there are continuing problems with homework, seek assistance. Schedule a meeting with the teacher(s).

**POLICY APPROVAL**

DESIGNATION		DATE
PRINCIPAL	<i>Law</i>	2023/06/13
SGB CHAIR	<i>Boys</i>	2023/06/13
REVIEW DATE	2026/06/13	

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**13 JUN 2023**

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 Table View