

TES Homework policy

1. General provisions

1.1. The dynamic learning environment at TES, with its many languages and cultural diversity, compel us to harmonise our approach to homework so that it becomes an effective tool to enhance the pedagogical objectives set out in our curriculum.

1.2. Harmonisations and collaboration among teachers is required both for the respect pedagogues owe to pupils, and for the need to take into account not only the individual pedagogical needs of one subject, but the larger picture overall.

1.3. Learning should be exciting and thought-provoking; homework is part of this ethos.

2. The purpose of homework

2.1. Homework is part of the continuum of lifelong learning.

2.2. It helps to forge the development of independent learning skills.

2.3. It builds character through the action of personal responsibility.

2.4. It gives parents an opportunity to take part in the education of their children.

3. Characteristics of homework

3.1. As part of the continuum of lifelong learning, homework should be in line with the school curriculum and serve a direct purpose or pedagogical objective.

3.2 Homework can never be a source of gratuitous punishment or an aimless exercise.

3.3. Pupils should be able to complete the work independently, thus it should be appropriate to their skill knowledge and age level.

3.4. Homework should contain both a clear indication of its deadline and supposed duration.

3.5. Homework must, as far as possible, be assigned in class, and written in eKool on the same day by teachers at the latest by 6pm.

3.6. Homework for the next day is normally not recommended, and in case it is assigned it must be announced in class and entered in eKool no later than 6pm.

3.7. For primary pupils, homework must be written both in their diaries and in eKool; for secondary pupils, only the eKool obligation applies.

3.8. Parents and pupils are informed via eKool of any homework and have the obligation to check it on a daily basis, in particular when a pupil is absent from school.

3.9. Pupils are under no obligation to hand in homework inserted in eKool after the 6pm deadline for the day after.

3.10. Homework during exam times normally takes on the form of revision with the purpose of preparations for the exam.

3.11. Homework can be done in different forms, according to the teachers' pedagogical policies and expertise

4. Guidelines for teachers

4.1. Teachers are the professionals and use their judgement, in conjunction with other teachers, to decide the volume of homework.

4.2. There must always be time, if needed, to check and correct homework in class.

4.3. Pupils are encouraged to make use of the library, of the individual study room (only for Secondary) and other facilities at school to complete homework during their free time.

4.4. Homework should be completed to a high standard and presented neatly.

4.5. Homework must be entered in eKool not later than by 6pm.

4.6. No homework will be given during official holiday time.

4.7. Homework from Friday to Monday, if no alternatives are available, can be given only in a very limited amount and only in secondary.

4.8. Teachers must ensure that no more than one summative test, project or major task is scheduled in one single school day. Moreover, they must ensure that the total maximum workload for their class level is not exceeded on a daily and a weekly basis.

5. Guidelines for pupils

5.1. Pupils must use their own words when doing research, both on the internet and on any other sources. Copying and cut and pasting are not allowed, are anti-educational and do not foster independent and critical thinking.

5.2. All ideas borrowed from others must bear references to the sources they have been taken from.

5.3. Homework late or incomplete will have an adverse effect on marks in eKool, decided according to the policies communicated by each teacher at the beginning of the school year (other sanctions as per the General rules of EU school are also applicable).

6. Guidelines for parents

6.1. Pupils should be encouraged to ask for assistance if in doubt.

6.2. Pupils must do the homework. Parents should provide the environment and the tools to complete the tasks and give children the necessary support to explore the answers for themselves.

6.3. Parents should encourage pupils to manage their diaries effectively.

6.4. Parents should remind their children that if homework is submitted late without justified reason it will impact negatively on their assessment mark in eKool.

6.5. Parents must check eKool every day for homework assignments.

7. Recommended maximum time for homework

7.1. Pupils workload must not be excessive, thus preventing them from having sufficient time for rest, recreation and leisure activities, and must adhere to the guidelines set by the current Homework Policy.

7.2. Recommended limits:

- Primary 1 and 2: 15 minutes per day, focussing on reading, spelling and numbers.
- Primary 3 and 4: 30 minutes per day, focussing on Literacy and numeracy, with occasional assignments in other subjects.
- Primary 5: 45 minutes per day, with gradual introduction to secondary school homework, when tasks become more academic.
- Secondary 1 to 3: 45 to 60 minutes per day.
- Secondary 4 and 5: 90 to 120 minutes per day.
- Secondary 6 and 7: Depending on the individual programmes, possibly not exceeding 120 minutes per day.

7.3. The guidelines for Secondary 7 do not preclude extra reasonable time for homework during weekends and school breaks when examination times approach, and exclusively in the subjects in which pupils will sit a written or oral BAC exam.