

Al Ittihad National Private School

Homework Policy

Reviewed by	Date	Signature

1 Introduction:

High achievement is the goal for all students. Teachers, students and parents are expected to work together to help meet the expectations specified by Al-Ittihad Private Schools Curriculum.

2 Purpose:

The purposes of this policy are as follows:

- to provide specific guidelines on homework for teachers, parents and students.
- to help promote and foster positive attitudes/ experiences about homework.
- to help increase the level of communication between home and school, especially as it relates to homework assignments.

3 Definition:

Homework is defined as educational tasks that are meant to be carried out or completed during non-class hours.

Homework is an aid in building life-long learning skills such as self-discipline, task commitment, time management, responsibility, independence initiative and problem solving.

First, homework should help document what students learned and how able they are to apply their new learning. Second, homework should play a role in planning what the next instructional steps should be. Homework should point to what needs to be retaught and indicate when students are ready to move on.

4 Characteristics of Effective Homework:

- meaningful and relevant
- purposefully planned to avoid student overload
- clearly articulated by the teacher and understood by students
- differentiated to meet student learning needs
- reviewed in a timely manner

5 Types of Homework Assignments

Homework assignments include:

- Practice exercises to reinforce skills already learned in class.
- Preview assignments to prepare for subsequent lessons.
- Extension assignments to transfer new skills or concepts to new situations.
- Creative activities to integrate many skills toward the production of a response or product.
- Projects / research work / Interviews /

6 Implementation:

Schools will ensure that homework is an integral part of the curriculum and is planned and prepared alongside all other programs of learning.

7 Responsibilities of staff:

7.1 Director General's Role:

- Communicating homework policy to Assistant Directors, HODs, teachers, students and parents.
- Encouraging parents to communicate with the Assistant Director if a student's homework assignments are excessive or not sufficiently challenging to the student, according to the parents' views.
- Review homework samples periodically.
- Approve the homework policy.
- Monitor implementation of policy.

7.2 Teacher's Role:

- Assign relevant, challenging and meaningful homework that reinforces classroom learning.
- Give clear instruction and make sure students understand the purpose.
- Give feedback and/or correct homework.
- Communicate with other teachers.
- Involve parents and contact them through administration if a pattern of late or incomplete homework develops.

7.3 Responsibilities of Parents:

- Set a regular, uninterrupted study time each day.
- Establish a quiet, well-lit study area.
- Monitor student's organization and daily list of assignments in their agenda.
- Help student work to find the answer, not just get it done.
- Be supportive when student gets frustrated with difficult assignments.

- Contact HOD, Assistant Director to stay well informed about the student’s learning process.
- Demonstrate interest in child’s learning by talking about his/her school day.
- Read to and with child from a variety of material.

7.4 Responsibilities of Students:

- Write down assignments in the “School Student Agenda”
- Be sure all assignments are clear; don’t be afraid to ask questions if necessary.
- Set aside a regular time for studying.
- Find a quiet, well-lit study area.
- Work on homework independently whenever possible, so that it reflects student ability.
- Produce quality work.
- Make sure assignments are done according to the given instructions and completed on time.

- Recommended Time needed for daily student’s work

Years 1&2	:	20 minutes per day
Years 3&4	:	30 minutes per day
Years 5&6	:	40 minutes per day
Years 7&8	:	50-60 minutes per day
Year 9	:	60 to 90 minutes per day
Years 10&11:		90 to 120 minutes per day
Year 12	:	120 minutes per day or more

What is Homework?

Homework is defined as educational tasks that are meant to be carried out or completed during non-class hours. It is an aid in building life-long learning skills such as self-discipline, task commitment, time management, responsibility, independence, initiative, and problem- solving which is mainly focused around two basic issues:

What is Effective Homework?

Effective homework is characterized by being:

- ✓ meaningful and relevant.
- ✓ purposefully planned to avoid overloading students with work.
- ✓ clearly articulated by teachers and understood by students.
- ✓ differentiated to meet the different students’ learning needs.
- ✓ reviewed in a timely manner.

▪ **What types of homework do we give at our school?**

Homework assignments include:

- ✓ practice exercises to reinforce skills which are already learned in class.
- ✓ preview assignments to prepare for subsequent lessons.
- ✓ extension assignments to transfer new skills or concepts to new situations.
- ✓ creative activities to integrate many skills toward the production of a response or product.
- ✓ projects, research work, interviews, etc...

▪ **What is the Teacher's Role?**

Out-of-class work is important for students; therefore, our teacher will:

- ✓ Assign relevant, challenging and meaningful homework that reinforces classroom learning.
- ✓ Give clear instructions and make sure students understand the purpose of the homework.
- ✓ Correct all assignments in a timely way, and provide an appropriate feedback.
- ✓ Communicate results and concerns with peer teachers.
- ✓ Include assignment marks in the overall grading of students.
- ✓ Return corrected assignments to students for purposes of self-correction, study, review and improvement of future assignments.
- ✓ To a fair extent, some test questions will be drawn from the same material as assignments. Students will see in concrete ways how careful attention to assignments will aid them in achieving good results on tests and other classroom work.
- ✓ When assignments, homework, or preparation are not being done, teachers have an obligation to inform parents. If a student is consistently not preparing assignments, the teacher has an accountability to contact parents. Parents also have a responsibility to inform teachers when an unforeseen emergency prevents a student from following the regular homework schedule.

▪ **What is the Parents' Role?**

Regarding homework, parents play a major role by doing the following:

- ✓ Setting a regular, uninterrupted study time each day.
- ✓ Establishing a quiet, well-lit study area.
- ✓ Monitoring student's organization and daily list of assignments in their diary.
- ✓ Being supportive when student gets frustrated with difficult assignments.
- ✓ Contacting Deputy Director, HOD, or Subject Coordinator to keep them well-informed about the student's learning process at home.
- ✓ Demonstrating interest in the student's learning by talking about his/her school day.

- ✓ Reading to and with student from a variety of material.
- ✓ Parents have a responsibility to help their son/daughter with homework but not to do it for them. If help received at home is too explicit, then homework becomes a misleading indicator of progress.

▪ **What is the Student's Responsibility?**

Because homework is a clear indicator of whether or not the student understood a certain concept or lesson, then it is the responsibility of each student to:

- ✓ Write down assignments in the "Student Daily Journal".
- ✓ Make sure all assignments are clear and not hesitate to ask questions if necessary.
- ✓ Set a regular time for studying.
- ✓ Find a quiet, well-lit study area.
- ✓ Work on homework independently whenever possible so that it reflects individual ability.
- ✓ Produce quality work.
- ✓ Make sure assignments are done according to the given instructions and completed on time.