

Homework

Homework Skills students will

explore:

Reading

Children have a reading book that is changed every week. They will bring their reading books home every evening and the role of adults is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words. i.e, using their phonological knowledge to sound words out, blending, segmenting words, deciphering from the rest of the sentence and looking at the pictures, are ways in which the children can read an unknown word. It is also important that the parents discuss the book to check that the child has understood what they have read in order to develop the child's comprehension.

Spelling and High Frequency Words

Children are given spelling words to build up their recognition of similar spelling patterns eg. ou, th, igh. They are also given a few high frequency sight words where there may be no pattern, or the letters in the word do not easily blend together. It is vital that children review these words regularly in order to develop their reading and spelling automaticity, in order to become more fluent and confident in using them across their learning.

Grammar

An important aspect of consolidating grammar is to be able to explain it and therefore parents should ask questions to deepen their child's understanding.

Maths

Teachers will sometimes send home resources to help with these, however it is encouraged that parents help children by providing them with mathematical equipment or posters as visual representation.

Your child can bring their Maths textbook home with them and even if they have finished their homework, they can use their textbook to revise previously learned materials. The parent could set them the task of explaining or reviewing a page the child has previously completed. This continuous revision will support their long-term memory and help them build and continue foundations before bridging them to the next topic.

My child is in EYFS. How does their homework differ from Primary?

Children in EYFS (Foundation 1 and 2) receive homework, however these are optional tasks and not enforced. For children of this age, it is important that they receive plenty of opportunities to play and socialise with others. Role play, small world play and socialisation with others is important in building their vocabulary, confidence, social skills and imagination and extension work and additional homework will therefore not be given.

Children in EYFS may receive phonics activities to use at home in order to practice basic, phonological skills. This may incorporate letter sounds and some key spelling words, which will not exceed more than 5 words per week. The children may also receive numeracy work to develop their understanding of early number skills.

My child is in KS3. How does their homework differ from Primary?

Students in KS3 have more responsibility within their subjects. KS3 students are given homework by their subject teachers and the quantity and frequency will vary depending on the units they are learning. Should students struggle with their homework they should approach their subject teacher for extra support.

The Phoenix Private School Homework Policy

The purpose of homework at PPS

Increasing research is showing that homework has little benefit to students in the earlier stages of school, and actually has a negative impact on students' academic success, enthusiasm for study and overall positive wellbeing (see examples of references at the end of this policy).

Therefore, at The Phoenix Private School, we have developed a new homework policy that aims to serve our students in the best possible way.

The **principles of the homework policy** are as follows:

1. **Homework should not be set just because it is expected.** Homework should be meaningful and have a positive outcome for the students.
2. **Homework should not always follow traditional styles.** Homework can do me in many forms, including ‘think about...’, ‘discuss this with your parents ...’, ‘find something else about this topic to share with the class...’ etc.
3. **Homework should only be marked if it will have a positive outcome for the students.** There is no meaning behind giving students a grade or mark for ‘reading for pleasure’ or ‘find something exciting to discuss on this topic for next week’. The action of the homework has fulfilled the meaning of the task. Therefore, only certain pieces of work will be marked or graded in the ‘traditional way’.
4. **Homework strategies will change, depending on the student, the year, and the time within the academic calendar.** Sometimes, student will need to do more homework, if they need to finish a class task, or revision. Similarly, as students move up through the school, homework will become more important, in order to help students, develop strategies for homework and cover the necessary materials.
5. **Parents are the most valuable part of the homework process.** As teachers, staff at PPS work hard to support students through their learning process, but at home they have little control. We ask that parents complete these activities with their children, talk about their learning that day, read with them for fun, and support the PPS teachers from home.
6. **The best ways for children to spend their time at home.** Younger students should be encouraged to play, socialize, discuss, and be active and interested in different things. Older children should be encouraged to learn how to discuss, listen, find interests and pursue them, play sport and stay healthy. ALL students should be encouraged to find balance in their home life, not too much phone or T.V. time, to eat healthy, get enough sleep and to read, read, read!

Categories of homework:

Homework Type/Category
Skill & Knowledge Development
Creativity
Self-regulated

Examples of homework assignments:

What will be your homework today?	
Homework Category	Your homework today is...
<i>The Red Zone</i> Skill & Knowledge Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the extension task... 2. Revise for an assessment/test/quiz on... 3. At dinner, talk to your mum or dad about the topic today 4. Try and remember what we have learned about in today's lesson/write down three things you remember. 5. Bring one extra fact about...to next lesson
<i>The Blue Zone</i> Creativity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Try and create your own... 2. Try to write your own version of... 3. Try to create an alternative ending for... 4. Create a presentation on today's topic 5. Build a model of/Draw a diagram of... 6. Create a poster for...

The Green Zone Self-regulated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read a book for...minutes- and enjoy it! 2. Spend ... Minutes learning your spellings/correcting your work 3. Write down what was most interesting about your lesson today and why you liked it. 4. Write down a question you have about the topic today. 5. Find out more interesting information about today's topic.
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Homework Policy- Expectations

Key Stage	Policy	Expectation
Foundation Stage	No formal homework. Teachers emphasize the impact parent interaction can have on their children at home. Focus on Literacy	Writing practice Math practice Pair reading Talking about the school day Opportunities for social interaction
Key Stage 1	No formal homework. Teachers emphasize the impact parent interaction can have on their children at home. Focus on Literacy	Writing practice Math practice Pair reading Talking about the school day Opportunities for social interaction
Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)	20 minutes of English, 20 minutes of Math per week. Self-regulated reading expectations.	As well as set homework in English and Math, student should participate in: Self-regulated reading for pleasure

		Self-regulating optional extension tasks Revision leading up to assessments
Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)	20 minutes of English, 20 minutes of Math, 20 minutes Science, per week. Self-regulated reading expectations.	As well as set homework in English, Math and Science, student should participate in: Self-regulated reading for pleasure Self-regulating optional extension tasks Revision leading up to assessments
Year 7	30 minutes of, English, Math & Science homework per week. Some extended homework may be required for assessment or Science Fair preparation. Non-core project-based homework. Encouragement of Self-regulated homework.	Self-regulated homework such as: Reading for pleasure Reading around the topics being studied Preparing Revision materials for examinations Reading over daily lessons to solidify understanding
Year 8	One hour of English, 30 minutes of English, 30 minutes of Math, 30 minutes of History, 30 minutes of Geography, per week. Some extended homework may be required for assessment or Science Fair preparation. Teachers will provide opportunities for independent work, extension tasks and self-regulated homework. Non-core project-based homework.	Noting questions to ask the teacher for clarification Using online revision sites to support learning Developing skills with family and friends such as discussion, arguments, conclusions, using evidence to support an argument, presenting etc.

Year 9	<p>One hour of English, one hour of Math, one hour of Science, one hour of History, one hour of Geography per week.</p> <p>Completing classwork and extension tasks will be a common request.</p> <p>Students are expected to self-regulate extended opportunities for working outside the classroom. Teachers will support students with this.</p>
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My child wants more homework! What do I do?

There are many websites that offer fun and exciting extension tasks for children to develop their knowledge further in a fun way. They may not see this as learning or homework tasks as they are game based. This is a fantastic way to continue your child's learning at home.

Maths	English	Science
www.sumdog.com www.mathplayground.com www.primarygames.com/math.php www.pbskids.org/games/math/ www.softschools.com www.educationcity.com www.topmarks.co.uk www.coolmath.com www.education.com/games/math www.mathletics.com *	www.readtheory.org www.readworks.org www.topmarks.co.uk www.educationcity.com www.learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/fun-games www.funenglishgames.com/games.html www.grammaropolis.com www.education.com/games/grammar	www.discoverykids.com www.sciencenewsforstudents.org www.planet-science.com www.sciencekids.co.nz

*Requires a subscription.

Will my child be given classwork to complete at home?

Children who persistently do not complete their work in class will be asked to complete it during their lunch break with the teacher. The parents will be alerted to this.

Homework Tips for Parents

- **Show an interest in your child's homework assignments.** Ask about the subjects and the work to be done.
- **Be a role model** -- take the opportunity to read a book or newspaper while your child studies. Reading together helps create a learning atmosphere.
- **Teach your child how to be organised.** Be sure he or she keeps a homework assignment book.
- **Eliminate as many distractions as possible during study time.**
- **Develop a strategy for dealing with homework.** Find a plan that works for your family and stick with it.
- **Try to relate the homework to your child's everyday life.** For instance,

fractions and measurements can be learned as the child prepares a favourite food.

- **Encourage your child to establish a regular time to do homework.**
- Developing a schedule might help avoid procrastination.
- **Meet with your child's teacher** to discuss the nature of the approach to reading, spelling and other topics that your child is being taught.
- **Make sure your child has a specific place to do homework** that offers ample lighting, minimal noise and plenty of work space.
- **Praise your child** for successfully completing homework. Nothing builds self- esteem like praise from parents.