

POLICY 6007

BBIS SECONDARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

BBIS MISSION AND VISION

BBIS is a leading international school, inspiring students in pursuit of lifelong learning and excellence. We celebrate diversity in a caring, internationally minded community. As an inclusive school, we empower learners to fulfil their unique potential. We guide our students to become responsible, compassionate global citizens.

GUIDING STATEMENTS

Teaching and Learning

We strive to achieve personal excellence in all areas of our learning, including academic, artistic, athletic and social growth. We ensure educational success in a supportive, stimulating environment that is responsive to individual differences and learning styles. We nurture creativity, resilience and independent thinking. We develop and share responsibility for our own learning. We inspire one another to accept challenges and celebrate achievements.

COMMUNITY

Care, empathy and mutual respect characterize our relationships. We embrace diversity as one of our strengths. We value inclusion as an opportunity to enrich our community. We reflect on our actions and are open to new ideas and perspectives. We collaborate, cooperate and support each other. We contribute to a sustainable world by taking action. We make a positive difference in our local and global communities

PURPOSE

Homework is defined as a task or tasks assigned to students that are intended to be completed during non-school hours (Cooper et al 1).

Homework has been shown to have a positive impact on achievement (Cooper et al. 1). These positive outcomes are only seen when homework meets certain criteria relating to task design and duration.

We believe homework is a natural and authentic component of the learning process, and should inspire students in the pursuit of lifelong learning. The homework that is assigned to students will support and augment the learning process. We believe in only setting homework tasks when there is a clear benefit to student learning.

The purpose of homework in the Secondary School is to:

- Consolidate and reinforce concepts, skills, knowledge and understanding.
- Develop organizational and time management ATL skills
- Provide the opportunity for students to work independently
- Complete coursework requirements

Homework should not become a burden to families, or result in a reduction in leisure time and motivation to learn, or cause an increase in stress and anxiety.

HOMEWORK TASK DESIGN

Homework tasks will be:

- Designed to enhance student learning
- Purposeful
- Engaging
- Planned
- Differentiated (considering the learning needs of the individual student through differentiation)
- Designed to increase confidence, motivation to learn and achievement

Some general examples of appropriate homework activities are:

- Reviewing learning that has taken place in class
- Preparation for the next lesson such as reviewing key vocabulary or pre-reading
- Responding to a teacher's written feedback from a piece of work completed in class
- Reviewing learning that has taken place in class
- Practicing and consolidating vocabulary, grammar and skills
- Structured research tasks
- Preparing for in-class presentations
- Revision for tests or preparation for other kinds of assessment tasks

HOMEWORK PROCEDURES

Homework will only be set when tasks meet the task design requirements, and the purpose of homework as stated in the policy.

Students will have more than one night to complete any homework tasks.

Homework tasks set on a Friday will be due in no earlier than the following Tuesday.

Homework tasks will not normally be set for completion solely over holidays.

Homework will always be due for submission during a scheduled lesson. (*Homework deadlines for submission will not be set outside of school hours.*)

GRADES 6-8

Homework tasks will be assigned by the **class teacher** on ManageBac.

This is to assist homeroom teachers and parents in supporting students with their time management.

The ManageBac task will be added to the date it is due for submission (not the date it was set), and task category set as 'homework'.

GRADES 9-10

Homework will be assigned by the teacher, but documented by the **student** in a consistent way in line with their developing self-organisation skills (*for example in a homework planner, or homework app*).

Documenting of homework will be monitored by the homeroom teacher, Curriculum Coordinator and Principal.

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT WHEN HOMEWORK IS SET

Students are expected to complete any homework tasks due from the second day back after an absence due to sickness.

Students are expected to seek clarification from their teacher if they don't understand the task.

HOMEWORK DURATION

In table 1 we set out the total time per night that students can expect to spend on homework. Students who have difficulties in understanding and completing their homework task should not extend the time allotted to homework completion, but rather seek clarification from the subject teacher before the lesson when the work is due.

It is acceptable to set longer tasks that are due at a later date, where the student is expected to spend 20 minutes working on it in each allotted slot. Appendix 1 shows an example homework schedule for a Grade 7 class.

Table 1.

Grade level	Total time per night (rather than per subject)
Grade 6	60 Minutes
Grades 7-8	60 Minutes
Grades 9-10	80 minutes Grade 10 students will spend additional working on their personal project
Grades 11-12	No particular limit is specified but the requirements of the courses need to be met, including Tok, EEs and IAs and other externally assessed tasks.

INCOMPLETE CLASS WORK

On rare occasions students may need to complete work from a class, that they could have been reasonably expected to complete during class time. This will not be treated as homework in this policy, and will be in addition to the time guidelines for completing homework. Before classwork is assigned to be finished at home the teacher will discuss the reasons for its incompleteness with the student in order to support them. The class teacher will contact parents so they are aware of the reasons for this.

FEEDBACK

Feedback will be provided that is consistent with our assessment policy 6005, and can take the following forms.

- Self or peer assessment
- Verbal feedback
- Written feedback

Teachers will record students' completion of homework tasks as a comment on ManageBac.
"Homework completed" or "Homework incomplete"

CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLETION

1st incomplete: discussion with student

2nd incomplete: parents and homeroom teacher notified.

Further incompletes: Meeting with parents to identify an individual way forward with the family that is appropriate for that child, for example, catching up on homework during break time, joining an after-school homework club, or reviewing structures in place at home to facilitate homework.

Works Cited

Cooper, Harris et al, "Does Homework Improve Academic Achievement? A Synthesis of Research, 1987–2003"
Review of Educational Research Vol 76, No. 1, 2006, pp 1-6, <https://doi.org/10.3102/00346543076001001>