



HOMEWORK REGULATIONS

Homework forms an integral part of the educational process to which children are exposed at school during the scholastic year.

Aims:

- **Outside the school environment and through research, writing and studying, children increase their knowledge and strengthen their educational progress in those areas which they have already studied in class.**
- **Children continue to exercise, revise and consolidate the skills they have already learned in class outside the school environment and without the help of their teacher and classmates.**
- **Children are encouraged to be more autonomous by planning their time, organising themselves in a responsible way and working on their own so as to improve their skills.**
- **Parents are given the opportunity to participate in the educational process and progress of their children.**
- **To provide a supplementary means of assessing the children's knowledge and progress in various subjects and to provide feedback to teachers and parents.**

A. TYPES OF HOMEWORKS

Various types of HWs may be given during the scholastic year. These may include the following tasks:

- writing
- reading
- studying
- listening and speaking
- investigations
- book reviews
- research
- projects
- Educational games
- Creative writing
- fieldwork
- art and crafts
- work on tablets

B. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

B1. The diary

- Children are expected to keep a diary (or copybook) in which they write their daily HW.

- The diary may also be used as a means of communication between school and home. In it the teacher may write notes to parents and vice versa.
- Children must keep their HW diary neat like other copybooks.
- Class teachers may also send notes to parents and information about HW through 'ilearn'.

B2. The homework given . . .

- is related to the syllabus covered for a particular subject.
- is normally explained in class beforehand, although it may also be given as a revision of what was done in class during the scholastic year or as preparation for a new subject.
- shall not take too much time to complete and must provide an opportunity for children to improve their knowledge in particular subjects.
- must be presented neatly and clearly by the children.
- may be corrected by the class teacher on his/her own or after class correction. Teachers see and sign all homeworks and give feedback to children about the level of the work they presented – by encouraging them when they perform well and by suggesting ways of improving one's work if and when this is needed.
- Must match the children's abilities. The quality and quantity of the homework given may increase and decrease, also depending on the skills obtained in a particular topic. Parents are informed and consulted when children are given a different kind of homework from that of their classmates.

B3. Parents

- Homework must serve as a link between the teachers and the parents in their quest for their children's educational progress.
- Parents are expected to check their children's diary every day so as to make sure that their children do their HW.
- Parents are expected to sign that they have seen any note written to them by the class teacher on the HW diary.
- Parents are expected to inform the class teacher if their children find it difficult to do the homework given, especially if this happens frequently. Parents may phone school for an appointment with the class teacher or else write a note to the teacher on the diary.
- Parents must support their children during homework by providing an adequate environment where they could do their HW, by encouraging them in their work or simply by just being present.
- The best strategy to help children in case of difficulty would probably be to ask children questions which lead them step by step towards a solution. Parents should never give the solution straight away as this would be counterproductive to the children's learning skills.
- Parents should encourage their children to read books aloud and then question them about the topic they would have been reading. This helps children improve their reading, comprehension and sequencing skills.
- Parents must never write their children's work themselves.
- Parents must never give answers or solutions to their children when doing HW.

B4. In case children do not attend school

- Parents may access their children's HW through 'ilearn'.
- Teachers send HWs to the office and parents may collect their children's HW from the office after 2.15pm.
- The HW done by children while sick must be returned to school by the children themselves when back to school.

B5. Alternative HW

- Instead of the usual HW, every Tuesday the Xaghra Primary school children are given alternative work to do at home. In exceptional circumstances, class teachers may choose another day to give alternative HW.
- The aim of alternative HW is that once weekly children experience a change in their HW routine; they don't have the usual written or repetitive work and at the same time they enjoy doing different tasks and practise skills which help them develop holistically.
- An alternative HW may involve reading exercises, research, investigations or other work which encourages creativity and skills that children hardly utilise during classroom activities.
- Alternative HW hardly involves any written work. If written work is involved, this is kept to a minimum.

C. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Children are expected to bring their homework daily. When children fail to bring their HW without the presentation of a valid reason by their parents, disciplinary action may be taken as follows:

1. Children are verbally warned by the class teacher to bring their HW on time as expected from them. Children may be asked to bring their HW the following day.
2. In case children repeatedly fail from bringing their HW to school, a written note about this is sent to parents on the school diary or on an official form. Parents are expected to read, sign and act on this note. Children may be asked to do their missing HW during breaktime.
3. If children continue to fail from doing their homeworks, the school administration contacts the parents verbally or fixes an appointment with them. Children may be asked to do their missing HW during breaktime.

In particular circumstances, teachers may keep records of the verbal or written warnings given to children when they fail to do their homework, including the dates when these take place.