



The English School of Mongolia

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The English School of Mongolia (ESM)

Preschool

Homework policy

At English School of Mongolia (ESM) we believe that students should view homework as a tool for improving academic success that enables them to practice skills independently and assists in their pursuit of lifelong learning and good study habits. Homework provides a meaningful continuity between learning in school and the home and helps parents to become part of the learning process of their children. Effective homework is formed through a synthesis of best practice, learning objectives, and an understanding of student needs. Homework should be differentiated according to the students' needs. Homework should achieve a combination of the following IB Learner Profile attributes:

Thinkers: enriching upcoming learning by inspiring inquiry and/or research into the taught curriculum

Knowledgeable: supporting the five approaches to learning skills (research, thinking, self-management, social and communication)

Reflective: providing opportunities for evaluation, extension and reinforcement Inquirer: encouraging life-long learning, and see learning in all parts of our lives

Consistent effort in these areas helps students to achieve their goals, brings them satisfaction and increases their self-esteem.

Aims:

- Reinforce, support and extend classroom learning.
- Promote self-discipline, organization and effective study habits.
- Increase confidence and enjoyment of learning.
- Promote positive attitudes towards independent and life-long learning.
- Provide parents with insights into their child's development and learning experiences, and invite their involvement in an appropriate way.

Implementation:

- Homework activities should be interesting, challenging, and where appropriate, open-ended.
- Each task must be purposeful, meaningful, and relevant to the current classroom curriculum. No new material or topics will be set as homework.
- Homework will only be work that your child did not finish during the school day. [We will send work completed in class the day we finish so please check your child's backpack for unfinished work. We will usually write, "please complete at home".] There will be no weekly assigned homework.
- We may send home a "project" once in a while.]

The role of the parent in PYP homework: Overwhelmingly, research has been unable to prove that homework in the lower elementary grades actually improves student performance. However, research has shown when families spend time together, students achieve much more.

Parents/families should:

- spend your evenings doing things that are proven to correlate with student success:
- eat dinner as a family,
- read together,
- play outside/inside
- get your child to bed early.

We believe in the strengths, talents, passions, and interests of our students. As a result, it is our hope students will utilize "at-home" time to learn to be life long, responsible, self-directed learners who:

Daily reading at home

Reading skills are developed through establishing a love of literature in a range of genres and forms. To support the overall language development, every child should be read to by his or her parents every day. Research shows that volume of reading is connected to attaining higher order literacy proficiencies (Allington, 2012; Brozo et al, 2008, Cipielewski & Stanovich, 1992).

Reading as homework for students with English as an additional language should also include regular reading in the child's first/mother tongue language. Proficiency in the child's first language determines the success of any additional languages learned.

Parents should:

- Read, read, read –Read a variety of texts for pleasure and visit the library.
- Take time to pursue their passions and interests –From sports to the arts to scientific experiments to research or deeper reading on a topic of study from class to helping cook dinner and so much more!

- Work toward personal learning goals –These might be benchmarks to master [think learning all the letters and their sounds or sight words, to counting and recognizing numerals to 100], or challenge activities to take them above and beyond grade level expectations.

ESM hopes that “**no homework policy**” at preschool will encourage

- creativity,
- curiosity,
- family time.

Each week in our newsletters, teachers inform the parents what students are learning, discussing, or exploring so they may use the information to dialogue with your child about class topics. Teachers may also suggest activity ideas the child or family may do outside of school hours for fun.

Through self-directed learning at home, students can purposefully and joyfully choose what and how they learn, develop intrinsic motivation and a growth mindset. It is ESM hope students will ultimately develop personal responsibility and self-reflection skills that lead to a love of learning as well as success in school and life.

At ESM we believe that family time, reading, time to pursue a passion, exploring interests, and working towards personal learning goals are much more important than weekly busy work which contributes to negative attitudes about school.

Reviewed: March 2019