HOMEWORK POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to pupils, parents/carers and school staff of The International School of Morocco the expectations for homework and at-home learning.

SCOPE

This policy applies to pupils in all year levels and the staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at the ISM.

RATIONALE

ISM has developed this Homework Policy to support student learning and wellbeing by:

• providing opportunities for pupils to revise and reinforce newly acquired skills

• providing opportunities for pupils to apply new knowledge

• providing opportunities for pupils to prepare for future lessons

• encouraging pupils to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively, and imaginatively

• fostering good lifelong learning and study habits

• supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

DEFINITIONS

Homework refers to tasks assigned to pupils by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

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ISM acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of pupils. Teachers at the ISM are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are both appropriate and meaningful to their pupils. This may consist of reading, practice exercises such as spelling, project work, maths tasks and, where appropriate, extension tasks. The above list is not exhaustive. Pupils are generally not expected to complete more than 20-30 minutes of homework per day.

Shared expectations and responsibilities:

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Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, pupils, and their parents/carers. To get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities and expectations for leaders at ISM are to:

• advise teachers, pupils and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for teachers at ISM are to:

• set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age

• ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning (homework is not intended to be 'busy work' or simply a chance to 'finish off' work the student did/could not complete in class)

• assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback

• ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family, and cultural activities outside of school hours

• offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

Responsibilities and expectations for pupils at ISM are:

• being aware of the school's homework policy

• discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers and teachers

• accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames

• following up on comments made by teachers

• seeking assistance when difficulties arise

• organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

Responsibilities and expectations for parents/carers are:

• ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities

• talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework

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• discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home

• ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

Support for pupils, parents and carers

Teachers at ISM understand that pupils have different learning preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to their classroom teachers.

Staff Review: November 2021

Reviewed: August 2023, August 2024, August 2025, August 2026

Next Review: August 2027