

HOMESCHOOL

Guidelines for Effective Homework

CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Assign at a standard time, in a standard way with written instructions, especially for at-risk students (agenda book, portal, email)

Clearly communicate learning intentions and success criteria

Model what is expected

Clarify procedures for homework not completed

PURPOSE

Relevant work that elaborates on content seen in class

Conceptual learning lasts longer than rote learning

Never assigned as punishment

Seldom project-based (especially with the younger students)

DIFFERENTIATION

Challenging enough, but not too hard (students should be able to read and understand the homework that is assigned)

Students with learning difficulties might require an individualized homework plan developed in collaboration with teachers, specialists, parents and the student

AMOUNT

Short time spans : approx. 10 min in grades 1 & 2, up to between 30 and 60 min in grade 6

Coordinate homework with other teachers

No homework over breaks or holidays

APPEAL

Attractive look

Novelty increases interest

Choice increases motivation

Student involvement in some homework decisions

FEEDBACK

Provide timely comments rather than marks

Encourage reflection on own learning

Avoid the habit of only checking for completion

Make time in class for students to begin homework in order to check for understanding

Vary follow-up strategies: student feedback, self-assessment, presentation, sharing with a buddy, comparison to success criteria, quiz, group discussion with the option of asking questions on topics that the group found challenging

