



## BBIS Homework Policy

“Homework is defined as the time students spend outside the classroom in assigned learning activities. Anywhere Schools believes the purpose of homework should be to practice, reinforce, or apply acquired skills and knowledge”<sup>1</sup>.

At BBIS, homework builds responsibility, self-discipline, and lifelong learning habits. It also works towards developing critical thinkers, more confident researchers, self-sufficient and reflective students.

Homework in the IB PYP should be used to enhance the Units of Inquiry and re-enforce the key skills and concepts that have been taught at school. This will mean that students may need to spend time at home continuing their research and inquiry.

To be effective, home learning needs to be part of a wider partnership between parents and school.

Teachers understand that sometimes events at home may prevent the completion of homework; notification would be appreciated. Parents will be notified by the PYP Coordinator if a student consistently incompletes homework assignments. If students have difficulty understanding an assignment, they should clarify expectations with the teacher.

If absent from school it is the students’ responsibility to complete homework or class work that may have been assigned during their absence.

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<sup>1</sup> Meador, Derrick. "Creating a Homework Policy With Meaning and Purpose." ThoughtCo, Feb. 11, 2020, [thoughtco.com/creating-a-homework-policy-with-meaning-and-purpose-3194513](https://www.thoughtco.com/creating-a-homework-policy-with-meaning-and-purpose-3194513).

It is important to bear in mind that students need a balance between homework and extra-curricular activities. In order to help students organize their time, a **weekly newsletter** with daily homework and research tasks is sent to the parents by the end of every week.

At the beginning of the new academic year, the teachers will outline the Homework Policy at the first official meeting with the parents.

## **Guidelines for homework**

### **The role of the parent in PYP homework:**

Homework serves to develop regular study skills and the ability to complete assignments independently. Therefore, parents play a supportive role in monitoring completion of assignments, encouraging students' efforts and providing a conducive environment for learning.

### **Parents/families should:**

- Provide a regular time and space for completing homework
- Promote independence in the homework process
- Avoid marking or correcting the submitted assignment
- Notify the teacher if the homework is not at the right level for their child (too easy, too difficult)
- Communicate with the relevant teacher upon their child's experiences and reactions towards their homework

### **Daily reading at home**

Daily reading is seen as a fundamental part of homework for PYP children. Reading as homework for students with English as non-native language should also include regular reading in the child's mother tongue language. Proficiency in the child's first language determines the success of any additional languages learned. Please refer to the BBIS Language Policy for further details.

### **Guidelines for homework by grade level**

#### *Early years*

- Daily shared reading, and book exploration, both in English and mother tongue: parents read on a regular basis to their children
- Regular hands-on activities that support early language and maths.

- Occasionally students may be given tasks that related to the current unit of inquiry or connected to students' personal interests.

#### *Grades 1,2,3*

- Daily independent reading (10 minutes for grade 1, 10-15 minutes for grade 2, 15 minutes for grade3).
- Regular (daily, weekly or periodically) homework through a balance of tasks (hands-on/problem solving activities, written/oral, and online tasks).
- Total daily homework, including reading, should be moderate (maximum 30 minutes per day for grade 3, 20 minutes for grades 1 and 2)
- Occasionally students may be given tasks related to the current unit of inquiry, other learning in the classroom or other tasks that are connected to students' interests outside the school.

#### *Grades 4 and 5*

- Daily independent reading for 20 minutes
- Regular (daily, weekly or periodically) homework through a balance of tasks (hands-on/problem solving activities, written/oral, and online tasks).
- Recommended total daily homework is 30-45 minutes per day.
- Assignments connected to the current unit of inquiry or tasks that are connected to students' interests. Those tasks involve research and/or reflection skills.

#### *Grade 5 Second Semester - Additional Guidelines:*

- To support the Exhibition, students should research global issues at home in addition to other homework
- The assignments are more complex and more time is given to complete them. This supports students to learn and develop forward planning skills, resilience, organizations skills, in preparation for MYP.
- Assignments start to be assigned and submitted via ManageBac, including more than one distinct assignment a week.

**PYP Subject and Specialist Learning** the homework approach is different for each specialist subject, but it still follows the school and PYP homework philosophy. Specific homework is communicated by the appropriate teacher and will be mentioned in the weekly newsletter as well.

**Generally, no homework will be given during the official holiday times.**