

The British International School Istanbul
Homework Policy

At the British International School Istanbul, the staff and parents support the issuing of homework to children. The following guidelines are adhered to ensure consistency in policy:

1. Homework should reinforce what has been taught in class.
2. Homework must be explained to the students to ensure that they are certain of what is expected.
3. Homework set should be graded according to the school marking policy to ensure that the work challenges the child.
4. Homework should be differentiated.
5. Homework should not require a lot of parental supervision or help as parents may not be the carer (e.g. maids or grandparents) or may not have sufficient English.
6. Homework should be written into students' Homework Record Books.
7. Homework is compulsory.
8. In exceptional circumstances and with a note from a parent, students may be exempt from that evening's homework.

All children vary in the amount of time they take to complete homework.

Teachers are sensitive to this when setting homework. The following time allocations should act as a guideline:

	Literacy	Numeracy	Other
E Y F S 2 (R e c e p t i o n)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter and sound worksheet homework is optional depending on the student; • Reader and words are strongly encouraged; the time spent on this at home is dependent on the student's level. We actively encourage parent and teacher partnerships. • Take home reader and words 10 mins per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying numeracy at home (for example counting 10 objects at home or cooking with a parent). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We ask parents for detailed information about home life, and we welcome participation and contributions. • Playing educational internet games may be included as homework tasks.
Y e a r 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take home readers 10-15 min per day; • Literacy phonic work weekly (15 minutes); • In the second and third term, we give the students' weekly spelling tests of CVC (consonant vowel consonant) and high frequency words. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numeracy homework (15 minutes) weekly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic work on a weekly basis.
Y e a r 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiated spelling lists for 10/ 15 minutes a day; • A reader for 10-15 minutes a day; • Literacy phonic work weekly (15 minutes). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numeracy homework (15 minutes) weekly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic work on a weekly basis (30-40 minutes).
Y e a r 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A literacy skills work weekly (30-40 minutes); • Spellings are taught in class and tested in the week; • Daily reading 15-30 minutes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A numeracy skills work weekly (30-40 minutes); • Times tables are tested weekly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly project work is issued and is due in the following week (40-50 minutes).

Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spellings are taught in class and tested in the week; • Daily reading 15-30 minutes; • A literacy skills work weekly (30-40 minutes). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A numeracy skills work weekly (30-40 minutes); • Times tables and division facts are tested weekly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 project work is given out on a weekly basis (50-60 minutes). • Any work that has not been finished in class or extra work is sent home to reinforce what has been taught in class as needed.
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A literacy task daily (15-20 minutes); • Spelling tests weekly; • Reading (20-30 minutes daily) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A numeracy task daily (15-20 minutes); • Times tables and division facts are tested weekly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanities/ DT/ Science/ Art work may also sent home (10-20 minutes daily or 50-60 weekly).
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A literacy task daily (20-25 minutes); • Spelling tests weekly; • Reading (30 minutes daily); • Reader Response (10 minutes daily). • Extended writing and handwriting homework may be sent for Friday night's homework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A numeracy task daily (20-25 minutes). • A math investigation may be sent for Friday night's homework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasionally we substitute regular homework with a special focus project; • Revision homework is given to prepare for class assessments; • Unfinished class work may be sent home to be completed.
ESL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Key Stage 2 (Year 3-6), ESL (English as a Second Language) homework is given in consultation with the Class Teacher. • Where appropriate a Year 2 child may be given a very small amount of homework, often at their request. This is often completion of a small task. • ESL readers are given as needed. 		
Turkish and French	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For beginners, in French and Turkish, the teachers give occasional homework such as spelling tests to reinforce the students' learning. • For native speakers, homework is given on a weekly basis to support the work done in class. 		
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE homework may be given to reinforce or extend understanding in KS2. 		
Snow Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of school being closed for snow days (or other circumstances where school is unexpectedly closed), snow day homework is expected to be completed by students. This will either be sent home earlier with the students, emailed home, or available online and the school will communicate the appropriate web link. 		
Holidays /weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework is not given out for weekends or holidays. • Work given on Friday is considered Friday night's homework. • Revision or reading may be given to students during holidays but it is not compulsory. 		

Some helpful hints for parents to help with homework may be:

- Ask your child to explain what we did in class that was similar to that piece of work.
- Read the instructions carefully with your child. Can they explain to you what they are supposed to do?
- Help your child make a list of the steps needed to complete the homework task.
- For the older children, phoning a friend for help can be an excellent option.