

Bukit Batok Secondary School

Homework Policy

Objective

The objective of this policy is to communicate the definition and value of homework and provide some guiding principles of how the different types of homework are aligned to the Blended Learning (BL) approach in BBSS.

Policy	Homework Policy
Applicable Parties	Parents and Guardians
Effective Date	18 August 2022
Supporting Documentation	Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Definition and value of Homework	<p>Homework plays an important role in the holistic development of students. It is a form of assessment which is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Homework enables students to practice the skills taught and process the information learnt at their own pace, resulting in better understanding and retention of learning. It is an opportunity for students to learn outside the classroom and nurture greater self-discipline, time management and self-directedness. In the process, students cultivate good study habits and positive work ethics.</p> <p>Homework refers to learning activities that students are required to complete outside of curriculum time such as online asynchronous lessons after SDL days, blended assignments and projects. Homework, when used appropriately, can reinforce students' learning, contribute to their progress and cultivate a healthy disposition towards learning. In addition, parents and teachers could build a stronger partnership for students' learning through homework.</p>
Types of Homework	<p>There are four types of homework: <u>practice, preparation, extension and integration.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice homework reinforces newly acquired skills learned earlier in the day and targets at helping students achieve mastery in specific skills. For example, students who have just learned a new method of solving a mathematical problem, could be given practice questions as homework to build mastery in applying the new method learnt to new situations. • Preparation homework introduces students in advance to concepts, ideas or activities that will be covered in class. For example, doing background research on a topic to be discussed later in history or geography classes or viewing online lessons prepared by teachers in the Student Learning Space (SLS). • Extension homework are frequently long-term continuing projects that parallel class work. Teachers use this form of homework to encourage students to collaborate with peers and be more creative during students' learning for example completing coursework for applied subjects. • Integration homework requires students to apply different skills to complete a task. For example, students applying their knowledge in science over various topics to complete their science research projects and presentations.

To nurture BBSSians to be self-directed learners with abundance mentality

Homework Tips for Students	<p>Actions in school:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand what is expected for each task in the homework. 2. Ask questions to clarify the homework expectations with your teacher. 3. Record homework deadlines using Google Calendar to facilitate the study plan to complete the homework on time. <p>Actions at home:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share the information with your parents/ guardians. 2. Get started early in doing your homework. 3. Establish a homework routine that is free from distractions such as handphones and loud music. <p>Give your best when completing the homework assigned to you:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check for errors before submission. 2. Strive to submit assignments on time. 3. Communicate and inform teachers and/or parents regarding homework concerns. 	
Supporting your Child (For parents)	<p>Establish a positive mindset about homework with your child:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work in partnership with your child in the monitoring and checking of homework. 2. Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration. Let your child take short breaks if he/she is having trouble focusing on the assignment. 3. Praise your child for his/her effort in completing the homework to reinforce the positive behaviour. <p>Establish a conducive environment for your child:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a conducive environment for studying and completion of homework. For example, an area with good lighting and sufficient space for studying. 2. Schedule a regular study time or routine for your child. <p>Provide on-going support and guidance when your child is facing with difficulties in completing the homework task:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask your child for some examples done in school to jog his/her memory on how to work out the solutions to the questions. 2. Provide guidance but not answers so that your child could take the ownership of learning the concepts required. 3. Partner your child's Form/ Subject teachers to seek clarification on the expectation of the homework if you have queries. 	
Non-Completion of Homework	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teachers will work with students to find out the reasons for any non-submission of homework. If need be, a parent-teacher conference will be arranged to partner parents in supporting the child to manage homework. 2. If the child is medically excused from school for an extended length of time, arrangements can be made on how the child can be supported with homework and other areas of academic needs. 	
Reviewed by / Date	Curriculum Working Group	2 June 2022
Endorsed by / Date	BBSS School Management Committee	23 June 2022

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How do I know if my child is given homework?

As part of the Actions in school, students are expected to record the homework given by their teachers using Google Calendar. Google Calendar platform can be used to set deadlines and reminders for homework. Your child could in turn share the calendar with you and you have instant visibility of the homework deadlines and reminders as well. You could facilitate your child's self-management of homework by suggesting the order of priority to complete the homework.

2. How do I reduce my child's usage of mobile device when doing homework?

There are different types of homework as mentioned in the policy and with the blended approach towards homework, it is potentially essential for your child to use his/her mobile devices to access MOE Student Learning Space (SLS), Google Classroom, Nearpod, Padlet or other online learning platforms, if your child has not received his/her Personal Learning Device (PLD) from the school. If your child has received his/her PLD, there is not a need to use the personal mobile device to access the learning platforms mentioned. Using the PLD is a safer way for your child to complete his/her online homework.

Communicating with your child on the purpose for using his/her mobile devices during homework time will help him/her to be more focused in completing the homework that requires the use of mobile devices. Role-modelling to your child on the appropriate time to use mobile devices could allow your child to emulate good habits in using mobile devices.

3. How can we help when we see our children struggling with homework?

Communicating with your child on the struggles that he/she is facing with his/her homework is the first form of support that you could show to your child. With such support, your child will be more reassured and in time, develop his/her confidence in the subjects. Seeing your child struggle with homework is part and parcel of his/her learning process. Some form of struggle with homework could build the child's persistence in solving questions, stretch his/her thinking and pique their curiosity which encourage them to ask questions. You could nurture your child's positive learning dispositions by thinking along with him/her and provide suggestions to help them overcome their initial struggles with homework. You could also share your struggles when you were back in school and talked about how you overcome your struggles in the related subject. This will provide some form of reassurance to your child that he/she is not alone in his/her struggles with homework.

However, it is imperative that your child attempts and completes his/her homework on their own without you doing the homework for them.

4. I am not strong in some of the subjects. How can I help my child effectively?

BBSS homework does not require for parents to know the content. However, in the spirit of remaining open to continuous learning, you could demonstrate this disposition by learning alongside your child. Even though you may not fully understand the content of the subjects, the attempt to learn alongside your child builds positive relationship and rapport with your child. You could inspire your child by sharing your interest in the subject and continue to be encouraging towards your child.

5. How could parents get in touch with teachers with regards to homework matters?

Our teachers' emails are available in the school website under the School Teaching Team tab. Parents could communicate and clarify matters with regards to homework through email. If your child shows signs of struggle with homework that are severe, it is advisable to arrange for meeting with the subject teachers or Year Heads to understand deeper the severity of the struggles that your child is facing. This allows for a more customised and targeted support for your child.