



# BEDFORD COUNTRY SCHOOL

Email: admin.bcs@r63.co.za  
Telephone: 046 685 1605  
www.bedfordcountryschool.com

P.O. Box 174  
Bedford  
5780

19 Graham Street  
Bedford  
5780



*Where every child has every chance, every day to learn with love and laughter*



## HOMEWORK POLICY

### PURPOSE

The purpose of homework is primarily to re-enforce and consolidate the work done in the classroom. That is, no assignments will ever go home that a child doesn't already have enough of the skills required to complete it successfully. Homework should never put undue strain on the parent-child or parent-teacher relationship. Therefore it should not cause stress by placing excessive demands on learners or parents. If the demands of homework are impossible and take precedence over all other forms of family interaction or exhaust the goodwill that could and should be occurring during this time when the family is together, your child's teacher should be alerted. Homework should be designed to be completed independently.

We believe that children learn best through play and enjoyment, not through formal academic assignments. Therefore homework assignments need to take account of the fact that children also learn from such informal activities as excursions or projects that can improve a child's creativity.

### How often will homework be given?

- Homework is set for Monday – Thursday. No homework will be given over a weekend, except in senior classes where some project work might be undertaken at weekends;
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion;
- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week if a child has not completed class work, has not made an honest effort or presented untidy work.

### What is the content of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks;
- Homework will regularly, but not always, contain reading, spelling, tables, bonds, written work, pieces to be learned by heart, drawing/colouring, collecting information.

### Plan of program implementation: (based on an average student)

#### Foundation Phase (Grade 1, 2 and 3):

- Enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials;

- Mainly consist of reading and activities to facilitate the development of phonic skills and numeracy concepts.

This will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day and not be set on weekends or during holiday periods

#### *Grades 4 & 7:*

- Includes daily independent reading and spelling;
- May include extension of class work, projects & assignments

This will generally not exceed 30-45 minutes a day, depending on the Grade. In Exam time (Terms 2 & 4) study time will be to the discretion and instruction of the parent.

In case of a child being absent from school it is to the discretion of the subject/class teacher to send work home once he's back at school in order for him to catch up.

#### **The role of teachers:**

Teachers will

- set the homework tasks for the week on the Monday;
- not give homework as punishment;
- provide a range of homework activities and tasks to consolidate and extend learning in class;
- ensure that learners clearly understand the task and have a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability;
- communicate with parents and keep them informed of their child's progress, projects and topics to be studied;
- make sure that learners have access to any materials needed to complete an assignment;
- give prompt feedback on checking homework, correcting errors and reviewing important concepts.

#### **The role of learners:**

It is expected of students to:

- listen carefully to instructions given about homework;
- hand in their homework on the stipulated day;
- perform their work to the best of their abilities and take pride in the presentation thereof;
- pack their homework the night before to ensure they have all they need for the next day.

#### **The role of parents:**

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework;
- helping them to organise themselves so that they can be effective in their study time;
- preventing interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or excessive noise/interruptions from brothers/sisters/friends;
- being supportive when a child becomes discouraged or frustrated, particularly with tricky assignments.

Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty. Please **DO NOT DO THE WORK FOR YOUR CHILD**. Parental assistance in certain aspects of the homework or project work is at times helpful, but nothing can replace knowledge gained through personal experience. Being challenged is part of the learning process and essential to developing good problem-solving skills, managing time, and learning to cope with stress.

Diary/homework book to be signed each day on completion of work. Work should only be signed once it has been completed and is of an acceptable standard. The diary/homework book is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers. A parent must let the teacher know if the child hasn't been able to complete homework due to family circumstances or if the child still couldn't do the work after an honest attempt.

Reading, learning and oral work is as important as written work. Please listen to your child read and examine spelling and counting/bonds/tables.

**Feedback for learners, parents & teachers:**

Feedback must be given as quickly as possible. Teachers are interested in knowing how the homework activities were performed. The homework diary is the ideal communication from home to school and vice versa. As with all school activities, parents are invited to discuss any queries with their child's teacher. Although an open door policy is followed at Bedford Country School, parents should try to stick to acceptable hours when contacting a teacher after school hours.

Homework is in essence a partnership between a child, his parent and his teacher. If implemented in the correct way this will set the path for solid learning behaviour and a lifelong love for learning.

This policy was adopted by the School Management on

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This policy has been made available to school personnel and is readily accessible to parents and learners on request.

This policy will be reviewed and updated every year.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
School Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Educator Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_