

# Homework Policy

## Academic Year: 2025–2026

### Philosophy

At Silver Fern International School, we believe that learning continues beyond the classroom but should not come at the cost of student well-being or family time. Aligned with the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Curriculum (MY) our approach to homework emphasizes **purposeful, age-appropriate, and supported learning experiences** that encourage inquiry, responsibility, and reflection without overburdening students.

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### Aims of the Homework Policy

- Encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning.
  - Inspire cooperation between parents and teachers.
  - Reinforce classroom learning through meaningful tasks.
  - Support time management, organization, and independent learning skills.
  - Give students the tools to involve their families in their learning journey in a natural, holistic way.
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### Key Principles

1. **Less is More**  
Homework will be limited in quantity and designed for quality engagement, not repetition or busy work.
2. **Assisted/Home-Supported Learning**  
Tasks may include shared reading, family discussions, or short reflections that parents can support without pressure.
3. **No New Learning at Home**  
Homework will focus on reinforcing or extending what has been taught, not introducing new or complex concepts.
4. **Student Well-Being First**  
Homework will not interfere with play, rest, or extracurricular activities. Students should have time to relax and recharge.
5. **Flexibility and Differentiation**  
Homework will be tailored to suit the needs, interests, and learning styles of students. Teachers will be mindful of students with different home support structures.

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## Types of Homework (Examples)

Grade Level	Type of Homework
PYP 1–2	Reading with family, drawing, picture talks, show-and-tell preparation
PYP 3–4	Short writing tasks, spelling practice, math games, inquiry reflection
PYP 5–6	Project-based research, reading response, math reasoning, action-planning reflection

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## Time Guidelines (Per Day)

### Grade Level Maximum Time

PYP 1–2	10–15 minutes
PYP 3–4	20–30 minutes
PYP 5–6	30–45 minutes

**Note:** These are flexible guidelines. Tasks should never feel overwhelming.

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## Roles and Responsibilities

### Teachers:

- Design purposeful, clear, and achievable tasks.
- Provide feedback or follow-up when appropriate.
- Communicate expectations to students and parents.

### Students:

- Complete homework responsibly and on time.
- Ask for help when needed.
- Reflect on what they've learned.

### Parents:

- Encourage a positive attitude toward learning.
- Provide a calm and supportive space for learning.
- Communicate any concerns to teachers.

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## ! Assessment and Accountability

- Homework is not formally graded but may be discussed or reflected upon in class.
  - Feedback will be constructive, focusing on effort, inquiry, and student voice.
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## ● What Homework is NOT

- Long, repetitive worksheets.
  - Stress-inducing or punitive.
  - Used as a substitute for classroom teaching.
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## 🔔 Communication

This policy will be shared at the beginning of the academic year and reviewed periodically with input from students, teachers, and parents.

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