



Island School Homework Policy

Homework means a variety of different things at different ages and in different subject areas. As students get older homework becomes more independent learning than sets of closed tasks that are given by teachers. Students take more control and “own their learning” as our Learning Journey describes. Even in year 7 some projects are open ended tasks where students will decide how much work is appropriate and necessary to complete them satisfactorily. The amount of independent work that is necessary for a student gradually increases through the years. The Learning Journey states that “Learning is Social and Individual”. This is also true of homework where some tasks must be completed individually and some tasks are set for groups to collaborate on. This will require communication between students outside school.

As students progress the role of Parents and Teachers changes from close support and supervision of homework to providing an environment which is conducive to students studying by themselves. Parents, Teachers and Students need a common understanding of:

- The purpose of homework.
- The amount of homework appropriate for different age groups and for different subjects.
- The need for homework to provide an appropriate level of challenge and stimulation.

At Island School we believe...

- Learning at home is an essential part of good education.
- Regular homework is important, since it gives students the opportunity to practice at home the tasks done in class, and helps the students work towards improving important skills. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school, and in adult life.
- Students learn in all kinds of ways and that the activities they are involved in are as important to this learning process and the development of skills as the specific homework set.
- All children need time to be children.'

Teachers always aim to give homework that stimulates students and engages their minds. Homework tries to.....

- Give students the opportunity to practice at home the tasks done in class, to reinforce the lessons learned and improve important skills.
- Help students become confident and independent in their learning, develop study skills (such as research) and reinforce good learning habits.
- Ensure that the curriculum is covered.
- Introduce new ideas and encourage enquiry.
- Encourage students to learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials and websites.
- Explore subjects more fully than classroom time permits.
- Extend learning by applying skills that students have acquired already to new situations.

Approved by the Principal after review by School Council in June 2017. Next review June 2020

Island School Trips Policy

The school offers a programme of trips and visits throughout the year. The school regards these trips as an essential part of the curriculum. The list below gives a flavour of what is offered during the year:

- Fieldwork day trips such as Geography for Years 7 to 9, or in Elements courses for years 9 to 11.
- Residential fieldwork, in subjects such as Geography and Biology at IB level..
- The BTEC fieldtrip to Thailand.
- Arts and Sports trips to other countries to take part with other students at a high level.
- Bronze and Silver HK Award For Young People (AYP).
- Visits to Baiwan in Guangdong.
- Visits to katja House Orphanage in Nepal
- Quest Week trips in November to various destinations.

Trips and visits are conducted within the guidelines of the ESF Trips and Visits policy.

Approved by the Principal after review by School Council in May 2017. Next review June 2020