

Document Control Sheet

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British Embassy School Ankara Homework Policy

Purpose of homework

At BESA, we believe that effective homework:

- supports and reinforces classroom learning;
- fosters independence, develops time-management skills, and teaches responsibility;
- provides parents with information about their child's learning and gives them the opportunity to support it.

Learning at home gives children the opportunity to practice and/or prepare for their learning in school and can help to develop successful lifelong learning habits. It is important not only for the child whilst at BESA but also in preparation for their future educational and adult lives.

How we set homework

At BESA, homework is set on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Worksheets that necessitate printing at home will not be put on the VLE. Written homework will be done in a specific book provided by the school. It may also be appropriate for homework to be sent to teachers via email.

We encourage children to complete homework in small manageable steps which support learning during the school week and leaves the weekends for family time. We do not believe homework should be so onerous or burdensome as to be excessively stressful for families or to leave little or no time for family time or to develop other interests. Should this be felt to be the case, parents are encouraged to talk to the teachers involved.

Homework timings are set on the assumption that homework is addressed Monday-Thursday, leaving Friday-Sunday free for family time. However, homework may well be set on a weekly basis, allowing children and parents to establish a schedule that suits their particular circumstances.

The base for homework is English and Maths.

English homework might include:

- reading
- phonics work

- spelling, vocabulary, punctuation, grammar
- writing activities

Maths homework might include:

- Mathematics activities
- Multiplication tables practice
- Rehearsal of mental and written calculations
- Various mathematical tasks

Other homework might include:

- Learning vocabulary
- Preparing oral presentations
- Research

Whilst we may encourage children to try other activities at home – e.g. reading widely for pleasure, playing a musical instrument – the distinction will be clear about what is and is not ‘required’ homework.

Early Years Foundation Stage

No formal homework will be set in the Nursery class. During the course of the Reception year, when it is deemed developmentally appropriate, a small amount of reading homework will be set.

Milepost 1

	Weekly homework should take no longer than . . .	Homework would typically comprise of . . .
Year 1	40 minutes (10 minute a day)	English Maths
Year 2	60 minutes (15 minutes a day)	English Maths

Milepost 2

	Weekly homework should take no longer than . . .	Homework would typically comprise of . . .
Year 3	100 minutes (25 minutes a day)	English Maths
Year 4	120 minutes (30 minutes a day)	English Maths

Whilst it will be expected that children in Mileposts 1 & 2 complete their homework, we recognise that our younger children may not yet have achieved a level of independence to be held accountable for a lack of homework. There will therefore be no automatic sanction for not handing in homework; instead, teacher judgment will be used on a child-by-child basis.

We do expect our children in Mileposts 3 & 4 to complete their homework, as we believe they should have achieved an appropriate level of independence to be held accountable. Sanctions will be as defined in our behaviour policy, and are in line with our system of Golden Rules.

Milepost 3

	Weekly homework should take no longer than . . .	Homework would typically comprise of . . .	Other curriculum areas for which there could be homework. . .
Year 5	160 minutes (40 minutes a day)	English Maths (≤ 120 minutes)	Turkish French IPC PSHCE

Middle Years

	Weekly homework should take no longer than . . .	Homework would typically comprise of . . .	Other curriculum areas for which there could be homework. . .
Year 6	180 minutes (45 minutes a day)	English Maths (≤ 120 minutes)	Turkish French IPC PSHCE
Year 7	240 minutes (an hour a day)	English Maths Science Turkish/French JMUN	IMYC PSHCE
Year 8	270 minutes (a little more than an hour a day)	English Maths Science Turkish/French JMUN	IMYC PSHCE
Year 9	300 minutes (an hour and a quarter a day)	English Maths Science Turkish/French JMUN	IMYC PSHCE

Policy Written by Ken Page

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