



Home of Irresistible Learning

Dubai English Speaking School

# Home Learning Policy 'Be the Best You Can Be'



Written by:	Victoria Atkinson	Reviewed:	September 2023
Approved by:	Tony Clarkson	Next Review:	September 2024

## **'Be the Best You Can Be'**

**At DESS, the aim of Home Learning is to provide opportunities for independent practice of pre-taught content which is undertaken outside of curriculum time.**

In engaging with short, timely home learning activities, our DESS children consolidate their learning, take greater responsibility for their learning journey, become more independent with developed perseverance, and further their understanding of the value of practice: **practice makes progress**. Engaging in small, achievable recall tasks enables the children to **'be the best they can be'**.

\*On rare occasions, and where there will be a meaningful impact on learning, the children in Years 2 to 6 may be set an optional, home learning task which encourages and extends their Invent, Explore, Inspire learning inside the classroom.

**Our home learning offer at DESS is deliberately light because of engagement with current research (limited known impact on academic achievement), feedback from our DESS community, and a commitment to valuing the joy of childhood outside of school hours.**

**At DESS, we believe that following principles underpin good practice:**

- The children are given the opportunity to plan and organise how and when they complete their home learning tasks.
- Home Learning expectations are clear and consistent and are communicated with children and parents in a timely manner.

**At DESS, we believe parents should be engaged in the following way:**

- It is expected that parents understand and promote the value of home learning embedding and capitalising on home learning opportunities wherever possible.
- Parents appreciate the positive impact home learning activities can have on the overall progress of their child.
- Parents are expected to support their children with completing their home learning activities in a calm, rewarding and positive way to mirror the ethos in the classroom environment.
- Where possible, parents should promote the ethos of 'Be the Best You Can Be' so it becomes part of their children's journey of 'learning for life'.

**Special Arrangements:**

- Class and subject teachers will ensure that the home learning tasks set are appropriate in meeting the needs of all children, including those with special educational needs.
- Personalised home learning tasks *may* be suggested by a class teacher if a child has clear gaps in their learning which can be supported through ongoing encouragement at home.
- In Years 5 and 6, as the children approach the end of their learning journey at DESS, they start to engage in small subject-specific, study skills-based learning tasks in preparation for Secondary School.

## Expectations for Home Learning

	Reading (Daily)	Spellings (x3 weekly)	Other	Arabic A	Islamic *Recommended (Daily)
FS1	Daily engagement with library book	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
FS2	15 minutes	N/A	One oracy task per week	N/A	N/A
Year 1	15 minutes	10-15 minutes	One oracy task per week	N/A	N/A
Year 2	15 minutes	10-15 minutes	Times tables practice	<b>Reading (x3 weekly):</b> 15 minutes  <b>Spelling (x3 weekly):</b> 10-15 minutes	<b>Quran Recitation:</b> 10 minutes
Year 3	20 minutes	10-15 minutes	Times tables practice		
Year 4	20 minutes	10-15 minutes	Times tables practice		
Year 5	20 minutes	10-15 minutes	One core learning task per week		
Year 6	20 minutes	10-15 minutes	Two core learning tasks per week		

## Expectations for Home Learning Diaries

- All children in FS1 to Year 6 have a Home Learning Diary.
- Within the Home Learning Diary, children record their daily reading and home learning activities.
- Home Learning Diaries will be checked by class teachers **at least** once per week.
- All children must sign the DESS 'Acceptable Use Policy' on the first page of the diary, to ensure we continue to be accountable to staying safe online.

## Monitoring and Evaluating

To ensure that this policy positively contributes to the quality of teaching and learning experiences, the provision of Home Learning will be regularly monitored and evaluated by a member of the SLT, Core Subject Leaders, and Year Leaders.