# AL ZUHOUR PRIVATE SCHOOL
# HOMEWORK POLICY

**Approved by: SLT.**
**Last review date June 2026**
**Next review date June 2027**

## AZPS Vision

Al Zuhour Private School is a community of lifelong learners that strives for academic excellence, prepares students for global challenges, and maintains cultural identity.

## AZPS Mission

To provide a high-quality international education while maintaining cultural identity. We celebrate diversity, encourage leadership, responsible citizenship, moral values, and the development of lifelong learning skills.

## Rationale

At Al Zuhour Private School, we believe that meaningful homework extends learning beyond the classroom and supports the development of independent, responsible, and reflective learners. Homework should enhance student understanding, reinforce key concepts, encourage creativity, and develop essential study habits while maintaining a healthy balance between academic commitments, family life, wellbeing, and extracurricular activities.
Homework is most effective when it is purposeful, appropriately challenging, differentiated to meet students' needs, and directly connected to learning objectives.

## Purpose

The purpose of homework is to:

1. Reinforce and consolidate learning that takes place in the classroom.
2. Develop students' independence, responsibility, and self-management skills.
3. Encourage critical thinking, inquiry, creativity, and problem-solving.
4. Promote reading, research, and lifelong learning habits.
5. Prepare students for future learning experiences.
6. Foster positive partnerships between home and school.
7. Support students in becoming reflective and self-directed learners.

## Guiding Principles

Homework at AZPS should:

- Be purposeful and linked to curriculum objectives.
- Be appropriate to students' age, ability, and stage of development.
- Support differentiated learning needs.
- Encourage student ownership of learning.
- Promote high expectations while maintaining student wellbeing.
- Include opportunities for creativity, research, and independent inquiry.
- Provide meaningful opportunities for feedback and reflection.

## Homework Expectations

Early Years (KG1–KG2)
Homework will focus primarily on:

- Reading with parents
- Language development activities
- Numeracy practice
- Fine motor skill activities
- Family engagement projects

Recommended Time: Up to 15 minutes per day.
Elementary School (Grades 1–5)
Homework may include:

- Reading activities
- Mathematics practice
- Vocabulary and spelling activities
- Inquiry-based tasks
- Project-based learning activities

Recommended Time: 20–40 minutes per day.

Middle School (Grades 6–8)

Homework may include:

- Practice and reinforcement activities
- Research assignments
- Independent reading
- Project work
- Preparation for assessments

Recommended Time: 45–90 minutes per day.
High School (Grades 9–12)
Homework may include:

- Independent study
- Extended assignments
- Research projects
- Coursework preparation
- Assessment preparation
- College and career readiness activities

Recommended Time: 1–2 hours per day, depending on subject selection and academic pathway.

## Types of Homework

- Homework may take various forms, including:
- Practice Homework: Designed to reinforce skills and concepts taught in class.
- Preparation Homework: Prepares students for future lessons through reading, research, or reflection.
- Extension Homework: Provides opportunities for deeper exploration and application of learning.
- Creative Homework: Encourages innovation, creativity, and student choice.
- Project-Based Homework: Develops collaboration, research, communication, and presentation skills.
- Flipped Learning Activities: Allow students to engage with content before classroom instruction.

## Examples include:

- Reading assignments
- Written tasks
- Research projects
- Presentations
- Practical investigations
- Model construction
- Experiments
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Creative design tasks
- Community-based learning experiences
- Digital learning activities
- Reflection journals
- Museum, exhibition, or virtual learning visits

## Homework-Free Periods

To support student wellbeing and family engagement, the school may designate:

- Selected weekends
- Public holidays
- School celebration periods
- Wellbeing weeks
- School breaks and vacations

No homework shall be assigned during official school holidays unless it forms part of a long-term project previously communicated to students and parents.

## Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers
Teachers will:

- Assign purposeful and meaningful homework.
- Clearly communicate expectations and deadlines.
- Differentiate homework where appropriate.
- Provide timely feedback.
- Monitor completion and student progress.
- Coordinate homework demands within departments and phases.

Students

Students are expected to:

- Complete homework to the best of their ability.
- Meet deadlines.
- Seek support when needed.
- Develop effective study and organizational habits.
- Take responsibility for their own learning.

Parents

Parents are encouraged to:

- Provide a suitable learning environment.
- Encourage positive study routines.
- Monitor homework completion.
- Promote independence rather than completing work for their child.
- Communicate concerns to teachers when necessary.

## Inclusion and Differentiation

Homework shall be adapted where appropriate to meet the needs of:

- Students of Determination
- Gifted and Talented students
- English Language Learners (ELL)
- Students requiring additional academic support

Teachers will ensure that homework remains accessible, meaningful, and appropriately challenging for all learners.

## Assessment and Feedback

Homework may be assessed through:

- Completion checks
- Teacher feedback
- Self-assessment
- Peer assessment
- Rubric-based evaluation
- Digital feedback
- Verbal conferencing
- Reflection activities

Homework will primarily be used to support learning rather than as a high-stakes assessment tool.

## Recognition of High-Quality Homework

The school values student effort and excellence. Recognition may include:

- Verbal praise
- Written feedback
- Certificates and awards
- Homework showcases
- Classroom displays
- Parent communication
- Celebration assemblies
- Digital badges and recognition platforms
- Student achievement awards

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Phase Leaders, Heads of Department, and Senior Leaders will monitor the effectiveness of homework through:

- Learning walks
- Student voice surveys
- Parent feedback
- Homework sampling
- Curriculum reviews
- Academic progress data

The impact of homework on student achievement, engagement, and wellbeing will be reviewed regularly.

## Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

1. Teaching and Learning Policy
2. Assessment Policy
3. Inclusion Policy
4. Behavior for Learning Policy
5. Gifted and Talented Policy
6. English Language Learner (ELL) Policy
7. Student Wellbeing Policy
8. Digital Learning Policy

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team in consultation with staff, students, and parents to ensure alignment with the school's vision, educational priorities, and best practices.

Review Cycle: Annual