



HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONALE

The purpose of homework, like schoolwork, is learning. Homework is important for students of all ages, as it helps them build on what they have already learnt in the classroom, and prepares them for the next stage in their learning.

Homework is also valuable for teachers, as it helps them assess the progress of their students. Homework helps to bridge the gap between home and school. It should be seen by teachers, students, parents and carers as a vital part of the home-school partnership, which supports young people while they learn.

QUALITY

Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:

- Appropriate for each student's age and ability.
- Relevant to each student's needs.
- Purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals.
- Varied and challenging, but achievable.
- Built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class.
- Clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- Supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers

- Implement the school's Homework Policy
- Communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to students and parents/caregivers. Ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for students
- Support students having difficulties with homework
- Discuss with students and parents/caregivers any developing issues regarding a student's homework
- Ensure homework is related to the work being done at school
- Provide a balance to allow students the opportunity to experience different types of homework
- Set homework which allows students to demonstrate what they are capable of, and which challenges them to progress
- Give students sufficient time for the completion of tasks
- Ensure students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- Acknowledge student effort in completing homework and provide timely and relevant feedback on achievement
- Mark homework promptly and accurately

- Assess homework to determine achievement by students
- Maintain student homework records
- Be aware that access to technology may not be available in all homes
- Help parents understand what homework is required, and when it is due. This could be done by requesting them to sign off their child's work
- Communicate with parents/carers about areas of concern related to homework

Students

- Be aware of their school's homework policy
- Complete homework within the given timeframe
- Maintain a homework book/folder for their teachers and parents/carers
- Show their homework to their parents/carers and ask them to sign it

Parents/Carers

- Support students in completing homework
- Provide, if possible, a place and desk for homework and study
- Assist teachers to monitor homework, this could include signing off tasks according to the timeline set by the class teacher
- Communicate with teachers about any concerns with homework or their child's approach to homework
- Alert the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected

MANAGEABILITY OF HOMEWORK

Homework that is manageable for students will:

- Be age appropriate.
- Consider students' outside of school hours commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition and home responsibilities
- Take into account students' access to resources and technology beyond school.
- Be clearly communicated to students.
- Provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school. The three main types of homework are:

Practice Exercises: providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills including:

- Maths, including memorisation of tables
- Practising for mastery eg spelling words
- Revising information about current topic
- Practising words or phrases learnt in a language other than English
- Reading for pleasure
- Writing
- Utilisation of software programs to enhance Literacy and Numeracy skills.

Preparatory Homework: providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- Background reading
- Reading eg, English text for class discussion
- Researching topics for a class unit of work
- Collecting items eg, geometric shapes

Extension Assignments: encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- Writing eg, a book review
- Making or designing something eg, an art work
- Investigations eg, Science, History, Geography
- Researching eg, history, local news
- Information and retrieval skills eg, using a home computer to find material on the Internet
- Monitoring eg, advertising in particular newspapers
- Speeches

Wherever possible homework should recognise the place of technology in today's world and the benefits of using technology such as home computers, e-mail and the Internet for organising and accessing information. Schools, however, should have regard for equity issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged.

HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

Early Stage 1 and Stage 1: Kindergarten, Years 1 & 2

Homework provides real opportunities for children to learn at home, assisted by their parents or carers. Generally teachers will not set formal homework in Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten). However, the home reading program will commence early in Term 1. Please note; all activities at home or in play can assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. Many concepts can be introduced and consolidated in many family activities, including:

- Shopping
- Preparation of food
- Listening to stories, learning songs and nursery rhymes
- Conversations about what is happening at school
- Interactive video and computer games
- Reading
- Library borrowing
- Family outings
- Collecting items

In Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2), under the guidance of Stage Leaders, teachers will set regular homework in activities, which develop literacy, numeracy, problem solving abilities and a wide range of other knowledge and skills.

These activities may involve home/school reading schemes, library borrowing and language activities, which reflect the work being undertaken in class.

Most homework will be set on a weekly basis with the opportunity provided for parents to sign the children's work.

Nightly homework may involve completing class activities, but should not be set as punishment.

Teachers will maintain student homework records to enable effective communication between home and school.

Class teachers will explain the homework policy for their Grade/Stage at the earliest opportunity each year eg, parent/carer/teacher meetings in February and the school newsletter.

HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

Stages 2 and 3: Years 3 – 6

As children progress through primary school, they will be able to work more independently on their homework.

Under the guidance of Stage Leaders, teachers will set regular homework, mainly in the areas of English and Mathematics. However, children will also be given homework in other Key Learning Areas.

- Homework activities may include reading, Mathematics, Reading Eggs, spelling words, times table activities, as well as practising skills and concepts which reflect the work being undertaken in class.
- Some homework activities will include using their BYOD device and may require children to download APPS to complete the activities.
- Projects and class speeches may also be set as additional homework to be completed at home and may be given a four-five week time period to complete.
- Teachers will maintain student homework records to enable effective communication between home and school.
- Most homework will be set on a weekly basis with the opportunity provided for parents/carers to sign the children's work.
- Class teachers will explain the homework policy for their Grade/Stage at the earliest opportunity each year eg, parent/carer/teacher meetings at the beginning of the year and in the school newsletter.