



Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work covered in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and is an opportunity to establish good habits of study. It is also a strategy to assist in the development of a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, homework can be the link for communication between the school and home.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- a) Communicate expectations of homework for parents
- b) Support and extend classroom learning
- c) Develop positive study habits
- d) Develop a responsibility for self-learning.

Understandings

The following statements underpin the principles informing the homework policy:

- i. Homework is good for communication between home and school.
- ii. Homework should be consistent so students and parents are aware of expectations.
- iii. Appropriate feedback should be given for homework.
- iv. Homework should be flexible and relevant and reinforce what is taught in class.
- v. The amount of homework should vary according to the student's age, stage of learning, and level of ability.
- vi. Homework should be manageable for the student, parents and teachers.
- vii. Homework promotes good study habits and organisational skills.
- viii. Research assignments should be given with written guidance for students and parents.

Implementation

- The school's homework policy will be distributed to parents at the commencement of each school year. Parents will also indicate on the Parent Authority Form sent in term 1 each year their support or otherwise of their child/children completing homework.
- Classroom teachers will communicate with parents about the homework routines and expectations for their class.
- Classroom teachers will set homework appropriate to each child's skill level and age.
- Classroom teachers will develop a system within their classroom to encourage, reward and monitor completion of homework. Parents will be contacted if a student habitually does not complete homework.
- Homework activities should be interesting, purposeful, and relevant to the classroom curriculum.
- Feedback will be given for homework; this could include whole class, group or individual feedback communicated to the child. It can be oral, written (in the case of research assignments) or an activity that builds on the skills developed whilst doing the homework.

- Teachers will communicate with parents directly as well as through biannual reporting how consistently each child is completing homework. Students will not be punished for incomplete homework, however parents will be notified directly about poor homework habits.
- Teachers may assign project or research tasks commensurate with the age and level of students.
- It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks, with consideration of the student's ability to complete the task.

Early Stage 1 (Kinder)

Homework will mainly consist of:

Home Readers

Sight Words

Homework time should not exceed 10 minutes per day.

Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2)

Homework will mainly consist of:

Home Readers

Reading Log for those students who are independent Readers

Spelling word practice

Number facts practice

Homework time should not exceed 15 minutes per day.

Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4)

Homework will mainly consist of:

Consolidation of basic multiplication facts (times tables) and spelling

Mini-project based on a topic of work supported by the school Librarian minimal parent supervision and input requested

Stage 3 (Year 5 and 6)

Homework will mainly consist of:

Consolidation of basic multiplication facts (times tables) and spelling

Mini-project based on a topic of work supported by the school Librarian minimal parent supervision and input requested

Monitoring, evaluation and review

This policy will be monitored as part of classroom reviews collecting data from teachers about the completion rates of homework and improvement in student outcomes as a result of homework completion.

The school will seek feedback from students, teachers and parents to assess the effectiveness of the policy through surveys. The review will occur as part of the regular school planning cycle (2018).

