



## POLICY STATEMENT: HOMEWORK

**Homework should support and extend students' learning.** To be effective, homework should be used to reinforce and practise what children know or to stimulate fresh interests. It should encourage understanding and enjoyable cooperation in the home. Homework should be balanced with recreational, family and cultural activities.

It is a commitment by parents and teachers, in partnership, to improve learning outcomes of each child, where we aim for them to become independent and accept responsibility for their own learning.

It is the responsibility of the individual classroom teacher to communicate their own homework expectations to the children and parents at the beginning of the year. Students and families should receive feedback on the quality of students' homework.

**This policy is to be published in Contact at the beginning of each year.**

Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's homework by:

1. Endeavouring to set aside a regular time and appropriate place, thus developing a natural routine.
2. Encouraging their child to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation.
3. Guiding their child where required, clarifying questions, and assisting where necessary;
4. Ensuring that a reasonable effort is made to present work of a good standard;
5. If for family reasons, the child is unable to complete homework, a note to the teacher would be required.

Homework for the child should be challenging but achievable, interesting and worthwhile. It should encompass a variety of methods and times in which they are to be completed.

Tasks may include:

- 1) Diary/communication
- 2) Homework book
- 3) Practising number facts, multiplication facts or practising spelling words
- 4) 'Big Talk' homework (where students discuss a subject in preparation for writing a text at school)
- 5) Web-based literacy and numeracy programs, such as Reading Eggs and Mathletics
- 6) Completing a maths exercise
- 7) Working on a project – eg technology, history, art, English, interpersonal skills, family/community project

- 8) Completing a task/exercise commenced in school
- 9) Repeating an exercise set in school
- 10) Additional tasks the teacher may see benefiting an individual child
- 11) Research for school-based activities

On occasions when a child has been given no formal homework, some of the following could be done:

- Read a book for pleasure (silently or to an adult)
- Learn mathematical automatic response facts
- Practise spelling words
- Discuss a news item with a parent
- Write a letter or Email a friend/relation
- Write a five minute summary of a TV program
- Listen to a parent read
- Write a story

**Suggested time duration for homework per night (as suggested by DoE guidelines)**

P-2 (10 to 15 minutes)

3-4 (20 to 30 minutes)

5-6 (40 to 45 minutes)

**on at least four nights a week. These times are flexible and every child's individual capabilities need to be taken into account.**

Homework for younger children (P-2) will be reading every night, and other small tasks in literacy and numeracy that the teacher may see as necessary.

Whilst broadening and reinforcing the school curriculum, it is hoped the development of a regular routine will establish good habits to build for the future.

Parents to be notified if homework is not returned for feedback. Teachers record instances of completed and incomplete homework for each student. An incentive system can be included to encourage students to hand work in.

Daily home reading should be carried out and recorded by all students.

Teachers can help their students by:

- Giving students enough time to complete tasks
- Correcting work and giving appropriate feedback and support.
- Helping students develop organisational and time management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning
- Developing strategies to support parents to become active partners in homework
- Homework club can be provided

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