



HOMWORK POLICY AND PROCEDURES

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good habits of lifelong learning, self-discipline, concentration and study; and by providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. It assists students to develop self-regulation processes such as goal-setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection and time management. Homework allows for the practising, extending and consolidating of work done in class. It challenges all students to explore open-ended tasks and serves to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

Parents/Carers will be advised of homework expectations and organisational procedures at the beginning and throughout the year.

Homework will be:

- not seen as a chore
- an opportunity to extend class work by practising skills.
- appropriate to each student's skill level and age.
- interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open ended.
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum.
- assessed by teachers with feedback and ongoing support provided.

Types of Homework:

Practice exercises provide opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

reading for pleasure

practising spelling words

practising physical education skills

writing stories or other creative tasks

practising and playing musical instruments

completing consolidation exercises for mathematics

practising words/phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English.

Extension assignments encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively such as:

researching topics

finding material on the Internet

making or designing art works

completing science investigation exercises.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Teachers may set homework on a day by day basis for students when required or over a weekly block.
- projects worked on over a long period may also be appropriate in some cases.
- failure by students to complete homework on a regular basis will be followed up with parents via the diaries/communication book.
- if a student fails to continuously submit homework, the teacher and/or unit leader will contact the parent to organise a meeting to discuss the situation and future action.

GUIDELINES

In Prep to Year 4 homework will-

- mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings
- enable the extension of class work by practising skills.
- may involve gathering of extra information or materials.

This will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during vacation periods

In Years 5 and 6 homework:

- will include daily independent reading for 20 minutes.
- may include extension of class work, projects and assignments, and research.
- may consist of reading activities to, with and by parents.
- may involve teachers assigning unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.

This will generally range from 30 – 45 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during vacation periods.

TEACHERS WILL HELP THEIR STUDENTS

before homework is set by:

- indicating clearly the purpose of the homework.
- specifying assessment and assignment expectations at the beginning of a unit of work.
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work that are appropriate to the students' learning needs and to the intended outcomes of the unit of work being taught.
- giving students enough time to complete homework, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities.
- helping students develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning.

once homework is due by:

- keeping accurate records of homework set and submitted.
- defining due dates.
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support.
- making effective use of home diaries.
- monitoring progress on major assignments several times before the due date.
- developing strategies to support parents to become active partners in homework.

STUDENTS CAN HELP THEMSELVES BY:

- being aware of the importance of homework and of the school's homework policy.
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames, and organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.
- seeking assistance from teachers, parents or caregivers when difficulties arise.
- ensuring their homework is completed to a high standard.
- showing their homework commitments and teachers' expectations to their parents or caregivers.
- following up on feedback given on their work by their teachers.

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS CAN HELP THEIR CHILDREN BY:

At home

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation.
- providing a place and time for regular homework.

- observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing.
- encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework on time.
- setting an example by reading themselves.
- helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources.
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework and engaging in leisure sporting or recreational activities.
- checking whether homework has been set and ensuring they are completing set tasks.
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity.
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home.
- Linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community groups.

At school

- attending school events, displays and expos in which their children are involved.
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with homework.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

Ratified at School Council Meeting held May 23rd, 2016