



# HOMWORK POLICY

## **RATIONAL**

Homework is a purposeful out of class learning activity that seeks to enhance the extent to which children benefit from their education.

## **PRINCIPLES**

a) Homework should:

- support the development of the student's independence as a learner;
- further the partnership between school and home;
- avoid dependence on unreasonable levels of parental assistance or resources that are not readily available to the student;
- be set without impinging on reasonable time for family, recreational, cultural and employment pursuits relevant to the student's age, development and educational aspirations;
- be consistently applied, monitored and assessed in a whole-school approach that is responsive to individual needs and learning area requirements.
- only be used to facilitate the achievement of learning outcomes;
- form part of a developmental learning program that is responsive to individual student needs,
- be disassociated from any form of punishing students or means of securing discipline.

b) Homework for children may include:

- completion of class work.
- reading practise.
- consolidation of concepts and skills taught in the classroom
- individual and negotiated plans to improve the child's understanding of a particular skill or concept.

*Teachers will inform parents of school homework policy procedures, appropriate time commitments and expectations at parent meetings in first term.*

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The following is a guide to implementation

## **KINDERGARTEN/PRE PRIMARY**

There will be no formal work set at the Kindergarten level. News telling tasks may require parent support. The following suggestions will enhance your child's progress:

- Read to your child daily. Children need to engage in literature
- Count things whenever an interesting opportunity allows
- Allow your child to help with cooking
- Take an interest in the things your child brings home and talks about from school
- Encourage running, climbing, balancing, ball play, getting dirty
- Use home readers (Pre Primary)

Some other activities may be given to consolidate classroom work.

For these suggestions to be useful the child must be interested and engaged.

## **JUNIOR PRIMARY (Years 1-2)**

Homework in these early years should be limited to short tasks. These should form the basis of a positive opportunity for parents and children to enjoy learning together.

- Phonics, spelling and word recognition practise
- Nightly oral reading, reading for pleasure, adults reading to children
- Finding pictures in magazines to support class work
- Discussing health/society and environment and science activities with parents
- Practise and reinforcement of number facts as appropriate
- Other activities may also be given to consolidate classroom work

### **MIDDLE PRIMARY (Years 3-4)**

In the middle years homework should provide children with practise and reinforcement opportunities and introduce them to the process of investigating and researching independently.

- Reading for pleasure
- Practise to reinforce number facts and tables
- Practise mathematics taught in class
- Introduce research and problem solving tasks
- Journal writing
- Completion of class work

### **UPPER PRIMARY (Years 5-6)**

Effective homework in the upper primary years includes, but goes beyond practise and reinforcement exercises as in previous years.

Effective homework seeks to:

- Strengthen independent study skills
- Motivate students to study by setting them interesting and challenging tasks that are related to their class work
- Recognise the need for children to have time for out of school interests, friends, family, social activities and personal time

Examples of appropriate homework tasks:

- Practise and reinforcement exercises arising from class work
- Short and longer term tasks that develop time management skills
- Reading for pleasure
- Book reviews
- Research and investigatory skills
- Thinking challenges

### **PARENTS' ROLE:**

Parents want the very best for their children, which means they want them to succeed at school. Homework is an important part of that process.

To assist your child you can:

- Schedule a daily homework time
- Set up a homework area
- Create a homework survival kit - does your child have all he/she needs to complete his/her assignments? Or do they waste time searching for pens etc.
- Talk to your child about the importance of homework.
- Praise your child.

PLEASE NOTE: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT POLICY DOES NOT SUPPORT TEACHERS SETTING HOMEWORK FOR CHILDREN NOT ATTENDING DUE TO FAMILY HOLIDAYS/VACATIONS

**"A Parents' Role is not Teacher; It is Coach and Cheer Squad"**