

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework should be educationally beneficial and should meet the realistic expectations of students, teachers, parents and caregivers.

PURPOSE

Homework is most beneficial when:

- it reinforces and extends class work and consolidates basic skills and knowledge
- it is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the student's motivation
- student take responsibility for their homework, supported by their parents or caregivers
- it is well coordinated and teacher expectations are well communicated
- it is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study
- teachers set suitable amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, stage of schooling and capabilities of students
- it takes into account student's home responsibilities and extra curricular activities, such as music
- it is marked promptly and accurately
- feedback and follow up are provided regularly to students
- it develops and extends the core learning skill of inquiry.
- it reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education.

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:

- consolidation exercises eg maths.
- practicing for mastery eg spelling words.
- revising information about a current topic.
- reading for pleasure.

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:

- reading
- researching topics for a class unit of work.
- collecting items.

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

- making or designing something, eg an art work.
- investigations, eg science, social science.
- researching, eg history, local news.

GUIDELINES

Students will be set specific homework tasks on a regular basis. They will become more independent in their study and will experience different types of homework.

Most homework is likely to be set in the areas of English, Mathematics and History/Geography. It could be set across all areas of the curriculum.

For all stages, READING AT HOME is considered to be very important. This could be shared stories with parents or students reading or just private reading for pleasure.

How Much Time Should Be Spent on Homework?

1. Homework is not meant to create stress. Please talk with your child's teacher if this happens.
2. Directed or independent reading should be a regular part of the above ranges (10-15 minutes).
3. Parents should be alerted by teachers of any developing problems concerning their child's homework

The amount of homework set should take on average 3-4 hours weekly to complete.

EXPECTATIONS

Parents and Caregivers Can Help By:

- taking an active interest in homework.
- ensuring that there is time set aside for homework.
- encouraging and supporting students to complete homework.
- providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study.
- encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events.
- assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set.
- communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.
- alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected.

Teachers Can Help By:

- explaining to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework.
- ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy.
- providing quality homework activities relates to class work.
- ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them.
- marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers.
- alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework.

Students Can Help By

- being aware of the importance of homework.
- completing homework within the given time frame.
- alerting parents or caregivers to homework expectations.
- seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise.
- showing their homework to their parents or caregivers.
- ensuring homework is of a high standard.
- organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.