

# **HOMEWORK POLICY**

## **Rationale:**

There are numerous benefits from the setting of homework at the primary school level:

- To provide opportunities to revise and consolidate work done in class
- To develop study habits
- To develop independence and self-discipline
- To develop time management skills
- To promote a closer involvement of parents in their children's education.

The purpose of this policy is to attempt to maximise the benefits of homework whilst at the same time minimising conflict.

## **Role of Parents:**

- To provide support and encouragement to the child
- To encourage completion of homework tasks
- To provide an appropriate working environment for children, free from other distractions
- To confer with the teacher when problems/concerns arise with homework
- To establish a routine by choosing an appropriate time in the day in which to complete homework.

## **Communication to Parents:**

Teachers' classroom expectations will be communicated to parents by letter and at Parent Teacher meetings at the beginning of each year.

Teachers will explain....

- The type of work to be set
- Expectations/requirements for completion eg. in pencil, amount of parental assistance etc
- Time to be spent each week
- Other suitable tasks optional for parents wishing to support their children further
- Optional tasks set by the teacher targeting specific students needs.

## **Homework Content:**

Homework set should be appropriate to the developmental levels of the children within a class. Teachers need to ensure that students possess the necessary pre-requisite skills for homework tasks set.

- **Home Reading** through the school's 'Home Reading Program' is an essential feature of homework for students in Prep-3. Reading at home in Years 4-7 is also strongly encouraged.
- **Appropriate Homework** content may include...
  - Reading at all year levels
  - Spelling - words should be suited to each student's spelling developmental phase

- Oral language - preparation for lecturettes etc at any year level
- Basic maths facts and operations
- English activities eg cloze, comprehension, word building and writing
- Projects and research that set **clear criteria** and **expectations of parent input**
- **Inappropriate Homework** activities may include...
  - Work that is new or difficult, requiring a high degree of parent help
  - Mathematics computations where concrete materials are necessary but are unavailable
  - Work not covered in class
  - Research projects requiring all students to have access to resources not freely available to all
  - Identical whole class spelling tests
  - Home science experiments using items not readily available to all
  - Unfinished school work that the child had difficulty completing.

### **Duration and Frequency:**

Generally, it is our policy to set homework over a 4 night weekly period eg. Monday through to Thursday or Tuesday to Monday. This allows students and their families to be flexible and plan completion of homework around their other commitments. This process teaches students how to plan and use their time wisely.

Suggested nightly time limits, including Home Reading for each year level are:

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| <b>Year 1</b> | 5-15 mins  |
| <b>Year 2</b> | 10-20 mins |
| <b>Year 3</b> | 10-25 mins |
| <b>Year 4</b> | 15-30 mins |
| <b>Year 5</b> | 15-35 mins |
| <b>Year 6</b> | 20-40 mins |
| <b>Year 7</b> | 20-45 mins |

### **Avoiding Problems:**

The following points should be taken into consideration when setting homework.

#### **Correcting:**

Homework should not be set if it is not going to be corrected. Correction should be done as soon as possible afterwards.

#### **Expectations:**

Realistic expectations should be set for all students at their stage of development. Work set should be achievable within the recommended time limit allowing for each child to

experience success. Therefore, it is quite reasonable for students in a class to have different levels of a number of homework tasks.

### **Parent Help:**

Parents are encouraged to support their child with their homework however excessive help or doing the work for the child is discouraged. We ask that you sign and note if help is required from a parent as this ensures that the teacher is informed that your child may require extra assistance. Parent education is advised before setting homework which requires a thorough understanding of the techniques and processes different from those used when they were at school.

### **Busy Lives:**

Teachers need to be sensitive to the fact that many children lead busy lives with sporting, cultural and social commitments at home. Where these commitments are repeatedly interfering with the completion of homework, contact should be made with the student's parents/carers to ensure that the student's inability is genuine, and then the amount of homework should be negotiated for future occasions.

### **Incomplete Homework:**

Withdrawal from any regular part of the school program is not an appropriate response for students who do not complete homework. Students may be required to catch up on uncompleted homework during their play break. Appropriate monitoring strategies and parent/carer contact should be established for those students who repeatedly default in performing or completing homework.

### **Informal Homework Activities:**

In addition to formal homework, students will also benefit from a range of informal activities. These will provide a source of enjoyment to children and allow them to pursue individual interests. We believe that engagement in these activities will improve communication between parent and student and help to involve parents more in the education of their children.

### **Some suggested activities:**

- Read library books with/to your child
- Keep diaries and other forms of writing eg. letters, lists
- Learn some practical task about the house eg. maintaining a garden, cooking, sewing etc
- Discuss current affairs from Radio, TV or the Newspaper. Older students may be encouraged to watch such programs each night
- Join a local Library, select books and read during the evening
- Participate in sporting and cultural activities
- Conduct open ended discussions
- Encourage participation in a hobby.