

## HOMework POLICY

### RATIONALE

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Homework is purposeful learning that occurs outside of the classroom which is set by the classroom teacher. Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning and providing opportunities for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Homework provides an extension to our differentiated curriculum by offering students tailored tasks that either enrich or support their learning.

### AIMS

To ensure that homework serves the diverse needs of students whilst ensuring that the educational needs of these students are met.

### IMPLEMENTATION

- Homework is an opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education.
- Parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.
- The school's homework policy will be available to staff and parents.
- Classroom teachers will regularly set and discuss homework tasks with students (to allow for clarifying words, questions and provide examples where needed).
- Homework will enable practice of classroom learning, prepare for new learning and /or expand on learning that has occurred.
- Each set task must be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current or previous classroom curriculum.

#### Types of Homework:

Practice exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills – such as:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- practising spelling words.
- reading for pleasure.
- writing tasks.
- practising and playing musical instruments.
- practising physical education skills.
- preparing for assignments/projects.

#### Successful Practice

Prep to Year 4 homework should not be seen as a chore. Homework will:

- enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials.
- mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings. This will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during vacations.

Years 5 and 6 homework:

- should include daily independent reading and practice of spelling words.
- should be coordinated across teachers in primary schools to avoid unreasonable workloads for students

- may include extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research. This will not exceed 30-45 minutes a day.

**Guidelines:**

*Teachers can help their students by:*

- setting regular homework to help students establish a home study routine.
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work that are appropriate to the students' learning needs.
- giving students enough time to complete homework, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities.
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support.
- making effective use of homework diaries for upper primary students.
- helping students develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning.
- ensuring that parents and caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy.
- developing strategies to support parents to become active partners in homework.

*Parents and caregivers can help their children by:*

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organization.
- observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing
- attending school events, displays or productions in which their children are involved.
- encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework
- setting an example by reading themselves.
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with homework.
- helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources.
- encouraging them to complete their homework independently and if needed support can be given.
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities.
- checking whether homework for upper primary has been set and ensuring they keep a homework diary.
- reading texts set by teachers. Discussing their child's response to the texts and asking to see work they complete in relation to these texts.

**REVIEW**

This policy was updated in May 2018 and is scheduled for review in 2021.