

# HOMework

## POLICY

### Strathmore Primary School

#### **RATIONALE**

The school believes that it is important to establish good homework patterns from an early age. Homework benefits 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. The school recognises that valuable learning can take place beyond formal school hours and that homework provides an opportunity for parents to have a meaningful role in their child's formal education and learning.

#### **AIMS**

- To support and extend classroom learning
- To develop in students the positive homework and study habits and the self-discipline necessary for secondary education and possibly beyond
- To encourage students to increasingly assume responsibility for their own learning
- To help students to develop organisational and time-management skills
- To develop students' skills in using out-of-school resources
- To allow the use of technology in an appropriate manner to complete and submit homework

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

- The school's homework policy and its appendices will be available to parents at the commencement of each school year
- At the commencement of each term, each teaching team will also distribute to parents an explanation of the regular homework requirements for that semester, providing information on the nature of the homework and the anticipated time required to complete that work
- Homework will be set for students in all year levels
- In determining homework tasks, teachers will:
  - Ensure that homework is appropriate to each child's skill level and age
  - Ensure that set tasks are purposeful, meaningful and relevant to current classroom learning
  - Endeavour to set homework that is interesting, challenging and where possible, creative and open-ended
- Types of homework that meet these requirements include:
  - Practice exercises, providing students with the opportunities to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
  - Preparatory homework, providing opportunities for students to gain background information so that they are better prepared for future lessons
  - Projects, encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively.
  - Websites, programs or apps that enrich the classroom learning

**Appendix A** provides examples of the types of tasks that may be set as homework.

- Teachers may also assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.
- For Prep – Year 4 students, homework will generally not exceed an average of 30 minutes per school day (which includes independent reading).
- For Years 5 and 6 students, homework will generally not exceed an average of 45 minutes per school day (which includes independent reading).
- Teachers will give students enough time to complete homework, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities.

- In the event that specialist teachers wish to allocate homework, they will be required to liaise directly with classroom teachers. It remains the classroom teachers' responsibility to ensure that the total amount of homework is not excessive.
- Teachers will ensure that all students are clearly aware of homework requirements and will help students to develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for students to be increasingly responsible for their own learning.
- Year 5/6 students will be required to use a communication device, eg. diary, iPad, to record homework requirements. These devices may be used as a means of regular communication between the home and school.
- Teachers will provide timely and practical feedback and support to students.
- Parents will be expected to encourage their children to complete homework and will be provided with guidelines (**Appendix B**) as to how they might best achieve this as part of the parent information sessions at the beginning of the year.
- In the case of students constantly not completing homework, teachers will contact parents to communicate their concerns and will agree on an action plan.

**APPENDIX A** – The following are examples of the types of tasks that may be given as homework:

<p><b>Prep</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take Home Reading (parents to sign)</li> <li>• From term 4 onwards – writing bag</li> <li>• Athletics</li> </ul>	<p><b>Year 3/4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent reading for at least 15 minutes a day, 5 days a week</li> <li>• Athletics</li> <li>• A task related to the Inquiry unit</li> </ul>
<p><b>Year 1/2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take Home Reading (parents to sign)</li> <li>• Oral presentations (Term 2 onwards)</li> <li>• Spelling (Term 3 onwards)</li> <li>• “Buddy Bear” (during Term 3)</li> <li>• Athletics</li> </ul>	<p><b>Year 5/6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent reading for at least 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week</li> <li>• Athletics</li> <li>• A maths sheet</li> <li>• A task related to the Inquiry unit</li> </ul>

**APPENDIX B** – Parents and guardians can help their children by:

- Encouraging children to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation.
- Acknowledging children's successes and asking how their homework is progressing.
- Attending school events, displays or productions in which their children are involved.
- Encouraging children to set aside a regular, daily time to read and complete homework.
- Setting an example by reading themselves and completing work-related tasks if appropriate.
- Contacting class teachers to discuss any problems their children are having with homework.
- Directing children to resources.
- Helping children to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities.
- Discussing the homework tasks that have been set.
- Ensuring Year 5/6 students keep a homework diary (which may be digital).
- Encouraging Year 5/6 students to access homework digitally using apps such as Tiqbiz and Showbie.
- Where English is not the main language spoken at home, discussing homework in children's first language and linking it to their previous experiences.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

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