

HOMEWORK AND HOME ACTIVITIES POLICY

RATIONALE

Children succeed at school:

- when parents, carers and teachers share common understandings about the learning needs of their children and the school curriculum
- when teachers are aware of the varying cultural and educational values of the families
- when teachers and families share an understanding of and communicate about educational goals and tasks.

Parents and carers are students' first teachers. Once the student begins school, the home continues to have a most important role in learning.

The time children spend at home relaxing, playing and pursuing their own and family interests is valuable.

A homework and home activities program can enable the home and school environments to complement each other.

Homework and home activities can reinforce aspects of the school curriculum in specific or general ways.

Homework helps students develop the habits necessary to succeed at secondary school and beyond, while assisting them to achieve educational goals.

HOMEWORK

DEFINITION

Homework consists of specific tasks organised by teachers, in communication with parents and carers, which address educational needs of students, and which are part of the overall educational program.

PRINCIPLES

1. Child centred education is fundamental to the school's philosophy. As childhood is a unique time in human development, students are not expected to spend large amounts of time completing homework.
2. Homework is set by teachers.
3. Homework is expected to be completed by students with support from parents and carers.
4. Homework is part of the overall educational program.
5. Homework is monitored by teachers and feedback and assessment is given to the student within a reasonable period of time.
6. Homework is educational-level appropriate and will provide an increasing challenge as students move towards Year 6.

7. Students need time to relax, play and pursue their own interests at home.
8. Homework will be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum.
9. Homework will not be set by teachers for students taking extended holidays during the school term.

GOALS

The goals of homework are to:

1. Supplement the work done at school as part of the normal curriculum
2. Give students the opportunity to consolidate work done at school
3. Help students develop their time management and organisational skills
4. Further develop students' literacy and numeracy skills
5. Further involve parents and carers in their children's learning
6. Assist students in developing skills for school success.

STRATEGIES

1. Homework is set by teachers, though it can involve:
 - work chosen by a student under teacher supervision; or
 - work jointly set by parents & carers and teachers when a particular need arises.
2. Homework will have a specific completion date.
3. Homework will be assessed by teachers within a reasonable time period and feedback will be provided to the student.
4. Teachers will communicate with parents and carers about the school curriculum, class interests and areas of study, homework goals, expectations and routines through a variety of ways including:
 - Homegroup information sessions for parents & carers in Term 1
 - Home Reading information sessions for parents & carers
 - The student communication book or diary, class letters or emails
 - Term or semester plans
 - The Bulletin
 - Formal and informal requests for communication
 - Parent/teacher interviews.
5. Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the completion of homework and to communicate with the class teacher.
6. Parent and carers will be encouraged to understand the importance of playing time in children's lives and how this aids learning.
7. The school, through homegroup teachers and curriculum committees, will provide information for parents about how concepts are taught in the areas of maths and English.

8. The school will provide an information sheet for families who are taking extended holidays during the school term.

HOMEWORK CONTENT

Home reading is the main priority for school homework.

PREP – YEAR 2

Homework will consists of:

- home reading
- activities which arise out of class learning experiences
- specific activities which address particular needs of students.

YEARS 3 – 6

Homework will consist of

- home reading
- activities which arise out of class learning experiences

and in addition it may include:

- spelling practice
- times tables and number fact practice
- research for school projects and completion of parts of school projects
- completion of unfinished work
- specific activities which address particular needs of students.

YEAR 6

- In addition to the activities listed above, Year 6 students will complete homework exercises and projects set as part of the Year 6 Transition to Secondary School program.

HOME ACTIVITIES

DEFINITION

Home activities are those done outside the school environment, which extend the students' range of learning experiences and take into account the social and cultural aspects of their home backgrounds. Their educational value should be recognised by teachers, parents and carers and students. Home activities encourage children to utilise the possibilities for learning outside school. Home activities can be social, recreational or physical.

Home activities can be generated/suggested by school or home.

PRINCIPLES

1. Home activities are an invaluable part of the students' learning.
2. Home activities encourage the development of students' interests and the use of resources other than those provided by the school.
3. Home activities value students' leisure time.
4. Home activities explore additional uses of the students' leisure time.
5. Home activities provide opportunities in which the students and their families can share learning experiences and further involve parents in their children's' learning.

GOALS

1. To supplement the school curriculum through different learning activities.
2. To widen the types of leisure activities experienced by students.
3. To assist students to gain an appreciation that learning takes place in a range of environments.
4. To promote learning as a shared experience with family members and friends.

STRATEGIES

1. The school will communicate with parents, through the Bulletin, the Website and the Family information Book, about the role of play and the place of leisure activities in the development of children.
2. The school Bulletin will include information about community sporting and leisure activities.
3. The school will support the organisation of out of hours programs, for example music lessons, sport and Chess, where practicable and as endorsed by School Council, following school guidelines.
4. The school will maintain a community notice board where community activities and events will be displayed.

HOME ACTIVITIES CONTENT

The following list contains examples of activities that children may be engaged in at home:

- reading
- maths games, including computer based games such as Mathletics

- playing
- playing with friends
- learning a musical instrument
- participating in physical activities such as dancing, karate, basketball
- cooking
- knitting, sewing, other craft activities
- using computer programs
- writing a shopping list, a letter , a poem or a song
- helping with household chores
- family discussions
- gathering information from family or community members
- critical analysis of TV or radio programs
- games such as draughts, chess, scrabble, Cluedo
- painting, drawing
- learning a song or poem
- science experiments
- making a kite
- sand and water play
- designing and making games.

REFERENCES

SSPS Teaching and Learning Policy

SSPS document *Reading with your Child*

SSPS Guidelines for School Council Endorsed Business Activities

Victorian Government Schools' Reference Guide, Section 3.2, Homework

<http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/curricman/support/3-23.pdf>

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