

# Spensley Street Primary School

## HOMEWORK AND HOME ACTIVITIES POLICY

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### 1. RATIONALE

Children succeed at school:

- when parents 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 are students' first teachers. Once the students begin school, the home continues to have a most important role in learning.

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.

### 2. HOMEWORK

#### 2.1 Definition

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

#### 2.2 Principles

It is generally set by teachers, but is a shared responsibility between parents, students and teachers.

It is part of the overall educational program.

It is monitored by teachers and feedback and assessment is given to the student within a reasonable period of time.

It is educational-level appropriate and will provide an increasing challenge as students move towards Year 6.

#### 2.3 Goals

The Homework programs aims to:

- further develop students' literacy and numeracy skills
- supplement the work done at school as part of the normal curriculum
- assist students in developing the disciplines for later school success
- further involve parents in their children's learning
- help students develop their time management and organisational skills
- give students the opportunity to consolidate work done at school.

## **2.4 Strategies**

Home work is set generally by teachers, though it can involve..

- work chosen by a student under teacher supervision; or
- work jointly set by parents and teachers when a particular need arises

Homework will have a specific completion date.

It will be assessed by teachers within a reasonable time period and feedback will be provided to the student.

Parents will accept responsibility for monitoring and encouraging homework and will receive feedback through teachers comments in home reading books etc.

## **2.5 Content**

### **2.5.1 Lower school (P-2)**

Homework will consists of-

- home reading
- maths cards (*either part of curriculum or not at all*)
- occasional specific activities which arise out of the integrated curriculum.

### **2.5.2 Upper school (3-6)**

Home work will consist of home reading and may include in addition:

- maths cards - share cards available
- tables and spelling revision
- research for school projects
- parts of school projects
- completion of unfinished work
- specific activities which address the needs of particular students

## **2.6 Communication**

Communication between home and school may include:

- communication book/diary
- term plans (including dates for stages and completion of projects)
- formal and informal requests for communication
- parent/teacher interviews

### **3. HOME ACTIVITIES**

#### **3.1 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 and parents. They can be social recreational and physical. They will encourage children to utilise the possibilities for learning outside school.

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

#### **3.2 Principles**

They are an extension of the students' own learning.

They encourage the use of resources other than those provided by the school.

They explore additional uses of the students' leisure time.

They provide opportunities in which the students and their families can share learning experiences and further involve parents in their children's' learning.

#### **3.3 Goals**

To supplement the normal curriculum through different learning activities.

To widen the types of uses of students' leisure time.

To assist students gain an appreciation that learning takes place in all environments, rather than just at school.

To promote learning as a shared experience.

#### **3.4 Examples of home activities**

- reading
- doing a maths activity or a FAMPAs activity
- gathering information from family or community members
- critical analysis of TV or radio programs
- games such as draughts, chess, scrabble, Cluedo
- writing a shopping list
- knitting, sewing
- painting drawing
- composing a song or writing a poem improvising or composing music
- learning a musical instrument
- learning a song or poem
- reading recipes and cooking
- dots to dots
- tidying your room
- science experiments
- making a kite sorting
- sand and water play

- playing or learning sports
- undertaking and learning the skills of various physical activities eg dancing, karate
- letter writing
- designing and making games
- using home computer

### **3.5 Communication**

Communication between home and school may include:

- parents noting activities in communication book/diary
- teachers making suggestions in the homework book as to activities that may reinforce the students' learning needs eg cooking to practice fractions, handling change to reinforce addition and subtraction.

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