

## Homework Policy

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/curriculum/schools/homework/PD20020003.shtml>

### Policy Statement

The Homework Policy has been written to assist staff, students and parents/caregivers to understand the school's position in relation to homework and to articulate shared responsibilities.

### Rationale

Research regarding the value of homework, particularly for primary students is inconclusive and community expectations about homework are variable.

The school believes that student learning may be enhanced when homework is:

- Appropriate for students' age and ability;
- Purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals;
- Varied, challenging and achievable;
- Built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class time.

It is also very important that out of school commitments such as sport, cultural activities, tuition, home responsibilities and issues around access to technology beyond school are carefully considered.

### Implementation

For the purposes of this document, homework is defined as any school task assigned by the school intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals.

- Teachers will design and assign homework which is appropriate for students' age and ability, purposeful, varied, challenging and achievable and built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class time;
- Teachers will provide timely quality feedback to students on set homework;
- Teachers will discuss with students and parent/caregivers any developing issues regarding a student's homework;

- Parents/caregivers will be advised of stage specific/class specific homework expectations at the beginning of the year;
- Parents/caregivers will support their children with completion of homework. *Homework; a parent guide* is attached to this policy;
- Stage specific homework expectations will be communicated to students and parents/caregivers at the beginning of each year;
- The Homework Policy will be posted on the school website and this will be communicated to parents on an annual basis. A copy of this policy will be provided to parents/caregivers at enrolment.

### **The Department of Education and Communities' recommendations.**

#### *The early years (K-2)*

- ◆ Parents can greatly assist their young child's learning by talking with them about school, listening to their child read and reading to their child. This is particularly true in Kindergarten where homework is less formal.
- ◆ In years one and two children will receive regular homework including home reading, language activities (including spelling) and maths.
- ◆ While each child works at a different pace, as a guide, children should spend up to 60 minutes per week on homework in addition to their reading.

#### *Primary School (Years 3 - 6)*

- ◆ As students progress through primary years, they increasingly work independently on homework.
- ◆ Many homework activities will be in the areas of English (including reading, spelling and handwriting) and Mathematics, but may include homework in other Key Learning Areas and, for some assignments, require greater organisation of time.
- ◆ While each child works at a different pace, as a guide, students should complete approximately two hours of homework per week in Yr. 3 & 4.
- ◆ While each child works at a different pace as a guide, students should be actively involved in approximately three hours of homework per week in Yr. 5 & 6.
- ◆ While homework is not specifically set for completion on weekends, students who have not finished projects and assignments may need to spend time on weekends doing so.

### **Expectations at Punchbowl Public School**

#### **Early Stage 1**

Kindergarten students are provided with a homework grid that includes tasks related to the unit of study being completed in the classroom at the time. Students are also provided with daily reading and a list of sight words which they are required to learn.

Students are also encouraged to access Mathletics which is an online resource provided by the school for extension and consolidation of skills if internet access is available at home

### **Stage 1**

Students will be provided with weekly homework based on literacy and numeracy tasks which are aligned with classroom teaching and learning programs. Students are expected to read each night of the week and record their reflections. Differentiated spelling words are provided and these should be revised through the LOOK, COVER, THINK, WRITE AND CHECK system. Students are also encouraged to access Mathletics which is an online resource provided by the school for extension and consolidation of skills if internet access is available at home. Some students may be assigned homework by class teachers for particular areas that may need extra attention.

### **Stage 2**

Stage 2 students will be provided with weekly homework based on literacy and numeracy tasks which are aligned with classroom teaching and learning programs and will include reading, vocabulary extension, writing and mathematical tasks. Students will also be provided with opportunities to choose tasks based on their interests through the homework matrix and will include interest projects that relate to topics being taught. Students are also encouraged to access Mathletics, which is an online resource provided by the school for extension and consolidation of mathematic skills if internet access is available at home.

### **Stage 3**

Stage 3 students will be provided with weekly and fortnightly homework based on literacy and numeracy tasks. These tasks will consist of open ended activities to cater for the differing abilities across the stage. Students will be given a range of tasks that they can choose from. Students will also be provided with opportunities to choose tasks based on their interests through the homework matrix. Major tasks will have a timeframe of 2 weeks to complete, while word work and reading will be done daily. Homework will include reading, vocabulary extension, writing and mathematical tasks. Students are also encouraged to access Mathletics, which is an online resource provided by the school for extension and consolidation of mathematic skills if internet access is available at home.