

Homework Policy

Updated May 2016

Statement of Purpose

Homework allows for students to practise, consolidate and extend their understanding of work covered in class. Homework trains students to organise their time and develop a range of skills across the Key Learning Areas. Additionally, it establishes study habits, concentration and self-discipline.

Introduction

Homework is part of the learning process at Lindfield Public School. It is valuable when undertaken as a partnership between home and school and when it provides parents/carers with the opportunity to be part of their child's learning. Parents/carers were consulted, regarding their opinions, via a Homework Survey in 2015.

The school provides homework within a set of guiding principles and within the parameters of this policy.

Guiding Principles

While formal homework is set on most occasions, there will be times when homework is not set. This does not mean that students do not have homework. Reading, practising skills and completing unfinished work are activities that are always available.

Homework will:

- be designed to consolidate and support the learning program;
- consist of a range of activities that may include; reading, practise exercises, speech/news preparation, online activities, preparatory homework, projects and extension assignments that are related to class work; and
- be purposeful and not used simply to keep students occupied.

Homework should:

- be regular and assist students in setting a routine of home study;
- provide parents/carers with a clear understanding of homework requirements and timeframes;
- provide parents/carers with information and an understanding of their child's class learning program; and
- be balanced with hobbies, recreation and community pursuits.

Homework is the responsibility of the student supported by his/her parent(s)/ carer(s) and the class teacher.

1. Teacher Responsibilities

Teachers will regularly set homework in Kindergarten to Year 6 from Monday to Thursday. The style and organisation of homework will depend on the professional judgement of the teacher.

Year	Suggested Time Allocation from Monday - Thursday (including reading)
Kindergarten	10-15 minutes per night
Year 1	15-20 minutes per night
Year 2	20-25 minutes per night
Years 3 and 4	30-35 minutes per night
Years 5 and 6	40-45 minutes per night

Teachers will:

- regularly set and discuss homework tasks with students in order to allow for questions, word clarification and to provide examples where needed;
- set tasks that are purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum;
- promptly mark homework and give feedback which may include written comments, stickers, ticks, rubric style assessments, verbal comments or student self-assessment. Peers may on occasion provide feedback on set homework;
- clearly communicate homework expectations to parents/carers;
- maintain records of completed homework;
- contact parents/carers (at the teacher's discretion) if a student consistently does not complete homework requirements;
- set modified homework tasks for students who have English as another language or dialect, a disability, or a learning adjustment in the classroom ; and
- not supply additional homework on an individual basis unless deemed necessary by the teacher to support students to meet stage outcomes.

2. Parent/Carers Responsibilities

Parent/Carers are:

- asked to encourage and support their child to complete homework within the required timeframe;
- asked to contact the teacher for advice if homework is unable to be completed;
- to advise the teacher if the homework set is causing concern for their child;
- able to negotiate with the class teacher regarding the completion of homework during the weekend or school holidays; and
- invited to discuss homework expectations when students are going on a personal holiday, however it is not the teacher's responsibility to prepare such homework.

3. Student responsibilities are aligned with the school's expectations of Respect, Organise, Aspire and Responsible

Students are:

- encouraged to set aside time and a designated place for homework;
- responsible for setting out their homework neatly;
- to try their best when completing all tasks;
- to communicate to their teacher(s) if they are having difficulty with set tasks;
- responsible for handing in homework on the due date and should recognise that homework handed in late may not be marked until the next marking cycle;
- to be aware of the tasks set and the timeframes for the homework; and
- allowed to use digital tools such as lap tops, video cameras, iPads etc. for completing homework e.g. typing written stories.