



Homework Guideline

BACKGROUND

There is a community expectation that schools will set and mark homework. Many community members see homework as tangible evidence that the school cares about the educational progress of students. Homework can also be a means of furthering school-home relationships and can assist in keeping parents informed about the student's learning program and progress.

Consideration may be given to such matters as home reading programs, voluntary projects or activities which might become appropriate in the early childhood phase of development. As students' progress through the early and late phases of adolescence, self-planned individual study and revision programs become important for many students.

It is expected that homework will relate directly to the learning and teaching programs appropriate to the needs of students. Preparation of students for the time commitment of homework anticipated in years to come is not, in itself, a reasonable basis for setting homework.

It should also be noted that there are some learning programs and situations where it may be determined that homework is not useful or appropriate.

RATIONALE

- Homework provides students with the opportunity to revise, consolidate, enrich and extend their classroom learning. There needs to be a purpose with authentic, learning intentions.
- Homework needs to reflect student's phase of development and the context of the school.
- Homework can support higher levels of student achievement by extending the time available for students to consolidate skills and concepts learned at school. It also extends the time available for the exploration of new ideas and new situations.

- **GUIDELINES**

Homework should:

- Be a pleasurable and rewarding experience for students and parents.
- Support the development of the student's independence as a learner;
- Further the partnership between school and home;

- Avoid dependence on unreasonable levels of parental assistance or resources that are not readily available to the student;
- Be set without impinging on reasonable time for family, recreational, cultural and employment pursuits relevant to the student's age, development and educational aspirations;
- Be balanced across learning areas so as to avoid stress and overload;
- Only be used to facilitate the achievement of learning outcomes;
- Form part of a developmental learning program that is responsive to individual needs, clearly relevant, supported by classroom practice and, where appropriate, developed in collaboration with students; and
- Be disassociated from any form of punishing students or means of securing discipline.

*Note: Provision of a 'home program' and/or 'extra work' or a 'holiday program' for students on vacation/ extended absence at parent request is **not** a teacher responsibility.* Taking holidays during term time is an **unauthorised** absence. Parents need to consult the Principal prior to making in-term holiday arrangements. **See Attendance Guidelines**

PROCEDURES

- All teachers will communicate the homework requirements consistent with the department and school's policy guidelines. Parents will be advised of the class homework policy through such means as parent information sessions, parent interviews, and distribution of class policy statements.
- In keeping with the homework rationale the type of homework set by teachers will be:
 - practising a skill or reinforcing knowledge learned at school;
 - practising those skills which require daily exercises, especially English and Mathematics;
 - providing the opportunity to enrich and extend their school learning activities.
- Some activities require students to manage their time as some tasks will take more than one session.
- Communication between students, staff and parents is maintained, especially when students are unable to meet requirements.
- For projects over time, information will be provided to support parents and children reading for pleasure on a daily basis is encouraged across all year levels.

Years K- P Homework

- . Shared reading with your child, saying nursery rhymes and playing word and number games are strongly recommended.

Years 1-3 Homework

- Practice of skills learnt at school will be on the basis of enjoyment and sharing with the family.

- Oral reading, spelling, practicing of relevant number facts, occasional collection of materials and parent supervised research.
- Recommended time allocation: On average ten to twenty minutes per session three to four times per week.

Years 4-6 Homework

- The emphasis will remain on children sharing their school learning experiences with their family.
- Revisionary practice of English and Mathematical skills and knowledge will be planned at this level.
- Class teachers will ensure coordination of homework.

Recommended time allocation: On average fifteen to thirty minutes per session three to four times per week.

The Palmyra Primary School Homework Guidelines are guided by the Department of Education (DoE) Homework Guidelines. [Homework Guidelines - Policies - Department of Education](#)

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