

Rockdale Public School

HOMework POLICY

2003

Rationale :

Homework has the potential to affirm the partnership in learning between parents, teachers and students.

The amount and type of homework set will consider and recognise the importance of family and leisure activities.

Homework should be educationally beneficial and meet the realistic expectations of students, teachers, parents and caregivers.

Purposes of Homework

Homework:

- is a valuable part of schooling
- allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class
- provides training for students in planning and organising time
- develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources
- establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their lives.
- strengthens home-school links
- reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education
- provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children
- challenges and extends gifted and talented children.

General Principles

Homework is most beneficial when:

- it reinforces and extends classwork and consolidates basic skills and knowledge
- it is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the student's motivation
- parents or caregivers are involved in the formulation and implementation of the school's homework policy
- students take responsibility for their homework, supported by their parents or caregivers
- it is well coordinated and teacher expectations are well communicated
- it is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study
- teachers set suitable amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, stage of schooling and capabilities of students
- it takes into account students' home responsibilities and extra curricular activities such as clubs and sport.
- it is marked promptly and accurately
- feedback and follow-up are provided regularly to students
- it develops and extends the core learning skills of inquiry and independent study.

Types of Homework

- Practice exercises - providing students with the opportunity to apply knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:
 - * consolidation exercises eg. maths, tables
 - * practising for mastery eg. spelling words
 - * revising information about a current topic
 - * reading for pleasure
 - * writing for a specific purpose.

- Preparatory homework – providing opportunities for students to gain background information in a unit of study for future lessons, including:
 - background reading and research
 - collecting items eg. geometric shapes

- Extension and Enrichment – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:
 - writing eg. a book review
 - making or designing something eg. an art work
 - investigations eg. Science, H.S.I.E
 - researching eg. local news, history
 - information and reviewal skills eg. use of Internet for accessing and organising information
 - monitoring eg. advertising in newspapers

How much time should children spend on Homework?

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extra curricular activities. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activity outside of school.

It is expected that most children would complete homework within these time frames:

- Early Stage 1 – 20 minutes
- Stage 1 – 30 minutes
- Stage 2 – 45 minutes
- Stage 3 – 45minutes to 1 hour

EXPECTATIONS

Parents and caregivers help by:

- taking an active interest in homework
- ensuring that there is time set aside for homework
- encouraging and supporting students to complete homework
- providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study

- encouraging children to read and take an interest in current events
- assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
- communicating with teachers any concern about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework
- alerting the school to any domestic or extra curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected.

Teachers can help by:

- explaining to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework
- ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy
- providing quality homework activities related to homework
- setting a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student
- ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- giving students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations and extra curricular activities and homework set by other teachers
- marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers.
- alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework.

Students can help by:

- being aware of the importance of homework
- being aware of their school's homework policy
- completing homework within the given time frame
- alerting parents or caregivers to homework expectations
- seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- showing their homework to their parents or caregivers
- ensuring homework is of a high standard

- organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.