



Homework Guidelines

Rationale

The Department of Education requires that all schools are to have a documented approach to homework that takes into account the needs of the students, the phase of their development, and reflects the school context. Homework can support students to consolidate skills and concepts learned at school. It is expected that homework will relate directly to the learning and teaching programs appropriate to the needs of students.

North Cottesloe Primary School has an holistic approach to education and understands that learning takes place both at school and at home. Strong connections between school, families and the community allow students to engage in rich experiences that support authentic learning. We value the important role parents and caregivers play in working in partnership with the school to support their child's learning. We know that parents and caregivers provide this support in a wide variety of ways, including through helping their child with school-assigned homework.

Our teachers understand the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle, including having plenty of time for play, rest, family, recreation and cultural pursuits. We believe that homework should not intrude on family life or cause stress for students and their parents/caregivers.

Homework and Achievement

Research into the impact of homework on student outcomes has been ongoing for many decades. It is a multifaceted area of study and the results of research into the effectiveness of homework are complex.

Research has established that students benefit from reading at home on their own and or with family members on a daily basis (Department for Education and Child Development, 2014). There is significant evidence to show a strong positive relationship between parental involvement in schooling and higher levels of school achievement. Parent involvement could be in the form of volunteering in the school community or simply talking about learning, playing number and word games or reading with children.

Homework Examples

Reading

Students are encouraged to be engaged in reading every night for at least 20 minutes. Depending upon a child's age and ability, this may include being read to by a family member, reading aloud or reading by themselves for pleasure.

Spelling

Students benefit from the revision of a weekly spelling list. This may involve using the "Sound out, read, cover, write, check" method to learn the words, partner revision with a family member or other word activities. Year 1-2 students, who participate in the Sounds-Write program, are not assigned home spelling tasks as per the program's requirements.

Mathematics

Familiarity with number facts can increase a child's confidence and competence in developing mathematical fluency and understanding. Teachers may also ask students to revise concepts taught during the day to consolidate students' understanding.

Completion of Classroom Activities

Homework may be necessary at times for students who have not completed set activities during school hours or for students who will benefit from further consolidation in an identified area. This is set at the discretion of the class teacher.

Reinforcement of Concepts

Sometimes, class teachers may choose to set a task that is directly related to an aspect of the day's learning. Some teachers may also set a task for the week to be time-managed by the student.

Homework Expectations

Apart from daily reading, there is no expectation that a timed homework allocation of tasks will be set by teachers. As a guide for parents, however, in addition to 20 minutes of reading, homework should take no longer than:

- Year 1-3 20 minutes
- Year 4 30 minutes
- Year 5-6 45 minutes

Homework is not a compulsory aspect of the learning program and students will not be sanctioned if tasks are not completed. Teachers will acknowledge the tasks completed by students but these tasks will not form the basis of academic assessment.

Homework Grid

All assigned homework will be presented in the form of a Homework Grid. Tasks in the first row of the grid; Reading, Spelling and Maths, are to be prioritised.

Room 17 - Homework Grid: Term 2, Week 7 (Example)

<u>Task 1</u>	<u>Task 2</u>	<u>Task 3</u>
<u>Reading</u> : Alice in Wonderland, chapter 3	<u>Spelling</u> : Soundwaves unit 12, Daily writing identified words	<u>Maths</u> : 3 and 4 times tables
Additional task	Additional task	Additional task

Additional Homework

If parents/caregivers wish to assign out of school learning tasks for their children in addition to those that teachers consider appropriate (as detailed above), they can access a wide range of commercially available resources and programs such as activity books and online programs (e.g. Study Ladder and Khan Academy).

Children's education is most effective when teachers and parents/caregivers work in partnership. Our homework guidelines reflect this philosophy with a view to achieving the best outcomes for our students, in line with their current developmental needs.

Reference:

Department for Education and Child Development, 2014, *Reading: from beginnings towards proficiency*, Government of South Australia, South Australia.

For revision in 2022