

HOMEBUSH PS HOMEWORK POLICY

Aim

To provide homework that is purposeful and which will consolidate, support, extend and/or enrich the school's programs.

Objectives

- To further the school / home partnership in the education of the child.
- To encourage the development of the child's interests, knowledge and skills.
- To develop a home/study routine.

Guiding Principles

- staff recognises that students engage in a diverse range of activities away from the school
- children are encouraged to be responsible for their own learning
- work must be derived from the school program and be consistent with the child's needs
- parents should contact the school if there are difficulties with homework. Work set by the school is expected to be given priority over tasks given by other sources
- a homework routine will be established in each class
- parents are aware that students have homework routines
- parents can assist students to do homework but should not do the work for them
- homework is to be neatly presented
- teachers will collaborate to ensure consistency and appropriateness of homework allocations
- the Department of Education and Training recommends homework but does not make it compulsory.

Purposes of Homework

Homework:

- 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

Implementation

Recommended length of time to be spent on homework:

- Kindergarten: up to 30 minutes per week.
- Year 1: up to 40 minutes per week
- Year 2: up to 60 minutes per week
- Years 3 and 4: up to 2 hours per week
- Years 5 and 6: up to 3 hours per week

Expectations

Homework is confined to Monday to Thursday nights.

Parents participate in the students' homework by listening to them read when appropriate, working 1 to 1 and helping them to locate necessary resources when appropriate.

Parents will be informed, using a proforma letter or school diary, if a student repeatedly fails to complete part or all of the homework.

Parents and caregivers can 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 their 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 concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework
- alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular 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 classwork
- 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 extracurricular 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 class/year/stage homework procedures
- 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 (this is perhaps not as important in senior high school years)
- ensuring homework is of a high standard
- organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.

Assessment / Evaluation

Teachers will:

Monitor the completion of homework
Monitor the quality of homework.

Parents will:

Review the content and purpose of homework
Indicate their satisfaction and /or concerns to: Class Teacher, ESL Teacher, Support Teacher,
Year/Stage Supervisor, or Principal.

Information is also sought through:

Interviews
Surveys
Letters