

Annandale State Primary School

Homework Policy

Revised May 2016



Statement of Intent

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural activities.

Homework that enhances student learning:

- Is purposeful and relevant to the student's needs
- Is appropriate to the phase of learning (early, middle and senior)
- Is appropriate to the capability of the student
- Develops the student's independence as a learner
- Is varied and related to class work
- Allows for student commitment to recreational, family and cultural activities.

Homework can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- Revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practising for mastery)
- Applying knowledge and skills
- Pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making)
- Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items).

Responsibilities

Principal:

- Develop a school homework policy, in consultation with their school community, particularly the Parents and Citizens Association
- Distribute the school homework policy to staff, students and parents and caregivers, particularly at the time of student enrolment
- Ensure the homework policy is effectively implemented throughout the school
- Include an up-to-date school homework policy as part of their annual school reporting.

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- Ensuring homework is in accordance with the school's Homework Policy
- Setting relevant homework on a regular basis
- Clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
- Checking homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback to students
- Providing homework that is varied, and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs

- Explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practise these strategies through homework
- Giving consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework
- Discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- Discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations
- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- Following up on feedback provided by teachers
- Seeking assistance when difficulties or questions arise
- Organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- Reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity
- Supporting them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- Encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning
- Encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities
- Contacting the teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.

Teacher considerations when setting homework

Considering students possible other commitments

In determining homework, it is important to acknowledge that students may be engaging in many different activities outside of school. These include a range of physical activities and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

Homework appropriate to particular phases of learning

The following is to operate as a guide in determining the amount of set homework that students might be expected to undertake. Parents may consult with a student's teacher about additional materials or practice exercises with which they can assist their child(ren) at home.

Prep to Year 2

Learning many activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills.

Homework tasks may include:

- Daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or other family members. Each student's take Home Reading folder will provide guidance.
- Linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- Conversations about what is happening with their learning
- Preparation for oral presentations
- Opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.

In Prep, Years 1 and 2 homework may be up to but generally not more than 1 hour per week.

Years 3 to 6

Homework can be completed daily or over a weekly or fortnightly period depending on teacher guidelines.

Homework tasks may include:

- Daily independent reading – at least 15 mins per night
- Tasks across different subject areas, including a written activity and 15 mins of Reading
- Extension of classwork, projects and research.

Homework in Year 3, 4, 5 and Year 6 could be up to, but generally not more than, 2-3 hours per week, depending on the year level.