

HOMEWORK

(Ratified December 2021)

AIMS / PRINCIPLES

This guideline has been developed with assistance from the Department of Education and Training. It provides a framework to help engage students and enhance the partnership between home and school. It complements and reinforces classroom understandings, study habits and it allows students to further develop the skills and knowledge required of an effective learner. It provides an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. Research shows that homework can aid learning at school, assist with fostering life-long learning and is an opportunity for learners to gather extra information.

Successful homework practice in the Early Years (Foundation – Year 2)

Much of the learning in the first three years of school is gained through oral language, with opportunities for discussion playing a vital role in helping to broaden vocabulary (a major contributing factor to student academic achievement) and develop understandings.

Successful homework in Foundation to Year 2 can:

- consist mainly of daily reading to, with, and by a family member/carer and generally **not** exceed 20 minutes a day
- include accessing Mathletics online
- provide opportunities in day to day activities such as shopping, cooking and gardening, as well as participating in board and card games that allow children to indirectly develop their literacy and numeracy skills.

Successful homework practice in the Middle Years (Year 3 – 6)

Learning in the later stages of primary school include consolidating concepts, particularly those related to literacy and numeracy. Current evidence and research shows that homework can have a positive effect on learning in the middle years, particularly when it is focused on the quality of the task not the quantity. It can enhance the learning opportunities of students and deepen their understanding of concepts learned at school. Homework in the middle years allows students to develop self-regulation processes such as organisation and time management.

Successful homework in Years 3-6 can:

- consist mainly of daily independent reading and will generally **not** exceed 30 minutes a day and can include reading books, decodable texts, comics, gaming booklets and instruction manuals, magazines, newspapers, recipe books, and internet websites.
- involve enrichment, revision and extension of classroom curriculum programs and may extend to class work and class set projects and research
- include accessing Mathletics online

Parent/Family/Carer support can include:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework and ensuring a balance between school and home commitments and extracurricular activities.
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity.
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in.
- discussing homework with their child and offering ideas on gathering resources and finding additional information.
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community groups.

Teachers and staff can help students with their homework by:

- making effective use of student diaries, or the use of Sentral, to communicate with families.
- helping students develop organisational and time-management skills.
- ensuring parents and carers are aware of the school's homework policy.
- advising parents of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and keeping parents regularly updated throughout the year.
- following up with parents if a student regularly fails to complete homework.