Homework Policy

Date approved by School Council | 20th June 2012

Rationale
At Seaford Park Primary School our homework policy carefully considers students’ levels, learning circumstances and home/school expectations. Homework plays an important role in building the home/school partnership, supports the foundations of learning and helps students revise concepts and enhance skills.

Our policy assists students by complementing and reinforcing classroom programs, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Aims
Homework should be:

- Appropriate to the student’s skill level and age.
- Purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum.
- Developing responsibility, organisation and self-learning skills.
- Fostering good study habits and independence.
- An opportunity for parents to participate in their child’s education.

Implementation:

- Classroom teachers will set homework tasks appropriate to each child’s skill level and age.
- Homework activities should be interesting, challenging and where appropriate, open-ended.
- Each set task must be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum.
- Homework should be given to students at a regular time and returned at a regular time.
- Failure by students to complete homework on a regular basis should be followed up with parents.
- Homework should be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development recommends the following homework guidelines:

**Early Years (Prep –Year 4)** Homework should not exceed 30 minutes a day and **not be** set on weekends.

Homework will consist mainly of:
- Reading activities to, with and by parents.
- Simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities.
- Specific projects when required.
- Unfinished classroom activities.
Middle Years (Years 5-6) Homework will not exceed 45 minutes per day

Homework will consist mainly of:
- Independent reading on a regular basis.
- Unfinished classroom activities.
- Projects, assignments, essays and research.

Types of homework:

Practice exercises - providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- Completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics – memorisation of tables
- Practising words or phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English.
- Reading for pleasure.
- Writing and other creative tasks.

Extension assignments - encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively.

Expectations:

Parents and caregivers can assist their children by:
- Encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation.
- Acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing.
- Attending school events, displays or productions in which their children are involved.
- Encouraging them to set aside a regular session to read and complete homework.
- Helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions and directing them to resources. (Usually it is better to encourage children to complete homework themselves)
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities.
- Ensuring their homework is returned by the due date.

Teachers can assist their students by:
- Setting regular homework to help students establish a home study routine.
- Setting meaningful tasks that are appropriate to the student’s learning needs
- Giving students enough time to complete homework.
- Assessing homework and providing feedback and support.
- Helping students develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning.
- Ensuring that parents and caregivers are aware of the school’s homework policy.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle or earlier if circumstances deem it necessary.
# TEACHER RESOURCE - HOMEWORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>READ</th>
<th>SPELLING AND NUMBER FACTS</th>
<th>REAL LIFE MATHS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading is an essential part of learning. We believe practice improves reading and children can explore fact, fantasy and imagination through a variety of texts.</td>
<td>Learning to spell an increasing bank of words together with learning multiplication tables and number facts is critical to literacy and numeracy development. These basic skills need to be reinforced through regular practice.</td>
<td>Shopping, for example, is a valuable time to gain life skills such as: money handling, classifying, sorting, totalling, reading item labels and discovering costs and value for money. This can also be a bonding activity between parents and siblings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</td>
<td>PERSONAL ORGANISATION</td>
<td>ART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is important for children to keep fit and grow into happy, healthy young people, physical activity and sports training, when done regularly with parents and coaches, assists with building strong, lasting bodies.</td>
<td>Housework in an important aspect of family life. Children need to accept responsibility for their own things and area as a member of the household. This should assist the children to develop skills necessary for them to manage their own homes later in life.</td>
<td>Art promotes creativity as children need to be creative throughout their school years. Children need to find a balance between work and leisure activities and should be encouraged to explore their creative and artistic flair.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEACH YOUR PARENTS</td>
<td>ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE</td>
<td>PROJECT RESEARCH</td>
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<td>This is one of the best ways to consolidate what your child has learnt. It enables the learner to go the next step from telling what work was covered, to verbally explaining and teaching concepts or skills learnt that week. This is an excellent way to enhance home/school relationships.</td>
<td>It is important for children to develop an appreciation for the beauty of nature and also to develop an understanding for the need to care for the environment through conservation.</td>
<td>Here children are given the opportunity to research and follow up on a project, assignment and areas of interest. They should be encouraged to explore using a variety of sources, including internet, dictionaries, libraries and other experts, including parents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>YOU CAN DO IT</td>
<td>USE COMPUTER FOR WORK</td>
<td>CULTURAL – ARTS AND MUSIC</td>
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<td>Parents have the capacity to positively influence their child's achievement in all areas and their active involvement in the process of developing the 5 foundations (Confidence, Persistence, Organisation, Getting Along and Resilience).</td>
<td>Computing skills are essential for children in their future schooling and working life. This includes researching information, communication with family and friends, writing and word processing, and using specific programs to develop skills.</td>
<td>This is an important aspect of a child's life. They should develop an early appreciation of The Arts. Music lessons, choir, dance, gymnastics, callisthenics, etc. all contribute to this appreciation.</td>
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