

Homework Policy

Date approved by School Council	<i>17th May, 2016</i>
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Rationale

As part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum, homework is seen as a way of supporting and fostering life-long learning and connecting families with the learning of your children. At Seaford Park Primary School our homework policy carefully considers students' levels, learning circumstances and home/school expectations. Homework plays an important role in fostering good life-long learning and study habits, building the home/school partnership, supporting the foundations of learning and helping students revise concepts and enhance skills.

Aims

Homework should be:

- Appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- Purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- Assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided
- Developing responsibility, organisation and self-learning skills
- 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.
- Homework activity relates to what is taught in the classroom
- Homework should be given to students at a regular time and returned at a regular time.
- Homework activities are linked with prompt, appropriate assessment and feedback.
- There is clear communication about homework between teachers; between teachers and students and parents/carers.

The Department of Education & Training recommends the following homework guidelines:

Early Years (Prep –Year 4)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Reading activities to, with and by parents or older siblings.
- Simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities.
- Specific projects when required.
- Unfinished classroom activities.

Middle Years (Years 5-6)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Independent reading on a daily 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
- Practising spelling words
- Practising words or phrases learnt in Indonesian (LOTE)
- Reading for pleasure.
- Writing and other creative tasks.

Extension assignments - encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively such as:

- Writing a book review
- Finding material on the internet
- Making or designing artwork
- Researching for a project

Roles and responsibilities:

Parents and caregivers can support their children by:

- Developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- 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.
- Reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household activities and physical activity
- 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.
- Talking to teachers about any concerns they have about homework

Teachers can support their students by:

- Setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- Giving students enough time to complete homework.
- Assessing homework and providing timely and practical 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.

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- Following up on feedback from teachers
- Seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- Organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity/sports, and other recreational activities such as computer games or television.

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

<p>READ</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SPELLING AND NUMBER FACTS</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>REAL LIFE MATHS</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>PERSONAL ORGANISATION</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>ART</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>TEACH YOUR PARENTS</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>PROJECT RESEARCH</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>YOU CAN DO IT</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>USE COMPUTER FOR WORK</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>CULTURAL – ARTS AND MUSIC</p> <p>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.</p>