

Home Study Policy

1 RATIONALE

Regular homestudy is a valuable aspect of the learning process and contributes to the development of sound study habits. Homework should reinforce and consolidate the learning in the classroom. It should be a time for positive interaction between family members as well as challenging and stimulating on an individual level. It should be achieved through a mixture of open-ended tasks, revision and consolidating activities and should be designed to encourage the development of independent study habits.

2 AIMS

- 2.1** To provide interesting and challenging homework appropriate for the varying abilities in the class.
- 2.2** To provide a balanced of open-ended, creative and practise activities
- 2.3** Give clear, explicit instructions and feedback
- 2.4** To be consistent in his/her approach to homework
- 2.5** Teach the necessary research and other skills to enable students to complete homework tasks
- 2.6** Record and report incomplete home study to parents. Incomplete home study that is followed by parental contact is not to be penalized. Unexplained homestudy may be required to be completed in the child's own time. This may be followed by a note to parents
- 2.7** Be realistic about use of equipment not readily in the home or is potentially dangerous
- 2.8** Plan activities which do not cause confusion or conflict with parents
- 2.9** Limit expense involve in completion of tasks
- 2.10** Avoid the temptation to think that whatever is not finished in class can be done at home
- 2.11** Homework should not become an onerous teacher task in relationship to time which could potentially jeopardize other curriculum preparation work.

3 IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1** The general practice for homestudy shall be determined annually during planning meetings in the first week of the school year.
- 3.2** The practice of each grade level shall be communicated to parents in a special newsletter or at information evenings within the first month of the school year.
- 3.3** Each teacher shall establish a procedure and determine the manner in which homestudy is to be reviewed
- 3.4** Homework is to be completed in an allocated homework book or subject book. Loose sheets should be stored appropriately.
- 3.5** Homework is to be presented in a written form consistent with the school's bookwork policy. It should be set out appropriately, written in either lead pencil or blue pen as appropriate to the grade level. Each page should be neatly ruled, dated and sections should be marked with sub headings.

3.6 Suggested time allocation per Grade K-10

Year 2	10-15 mins
Year 3	15-20 mins
Year 4	25-30 mins
Year 5	30-40 mins
Year 6	40-45 mins
Year 7	60 mins
Year 8	60 mins
Year 9	90 mins
Year 10	90 mins

3.7 Home study records of each student (K-6) shall be kept in assessment records as a measure to assist reporting to parents.

3.8 Year 6 to use a school diary to assist planning of homework time in preparation for secondary.

INFANTS K-2

KINDERGARTEN

Parents play a vital role in the execution of homework in Kindergarten

- Kindergarten children, with their parents, are encouraged to learn phonics and sight words, as appropriate to the term overview.
- Follow-up on teacher-made recommendations regarding specific needs i.e. remediation, extension
- Students will read a home reader each night and return reading journal each day.

YEAR 1

- Students will use a spelling journal with a personal list of words, which are learnt and revised over three nights and returned to the class teacher on the fourth day for new words to be added.
- A home reader which the children are expected to borrow and return on a daily basis. Children are expected to read aloud to parents and to discuss the story and its contents with them. A reading journal is to be kept and returned weekly to school.
- Minimum research activities for Science and Technology, HSIE, RE and Maths which may involve collecting photos, magazine pictures, literature, statistics etc

Year 2

- Worksheets given out every Monday and brought back on Thursday or Friday.
- Reinforcement of concepts taught in the classroom to let parents know what themes or topics are being studied in the classroom.
- A home reader which the children are expected to borrow and return on a daily basis. A reading journal returned each Friday will support this activity and will contain nightly signatures registered by parents.
- Development of children's skills in Language and Mathematics. Children have a list of spelling words and number facts. The spelling words are adjusted to the child's level.

PRIMARY 3 –6

- Children are expected to do the allocated time in home study with homework given out on Monday and returned to the class teacher by Friday.
- Homework will be related to work occurring in the classroom. This means that the homework will vary from time to time.
- A nightly reading component will form part of Years 3 – 6 nightly homework.

Homework will include

- Spelling activities designed to reinforce and enhance learning of personal spelling list words.
- Number facts and tables for memorization
- Formal homework will be given to reinforce what is learned in class, by having children practise and revise work or skills. It is intended to be done individually and with as little assistance from parents as possible.
- Tasks may be set which involve 'getting ready' activities. This may mean gathering information from everyday or family experience, or watching particular TV shows or commercials. It may mean finding examples at home of objects that demonstrate a concept
- Children may be asked to work on their research at home for a particular assignment being completed in class. This allows for time to find extra information from other sources not available at school.
- Extension homework may involve such things as writing book reviews, stories, poems, songs, making and designing something either creatively or to a design brief. As some children find this type of independent activity more difficult than others, teachers should try to give children a number of tasks that they can choose from over the term, making this homework optional
- Extension homework which is offered to students would be considered an optional student activity in terms of completion.

SECONDARY 7-10

- Times set for secondary are intended as a guide only. The individual subject teachers determine the specific homestudy tasks.
- Students must complete assigned homework tasks on time.
- Students must use the school diary in appropriate grades to record all homework tasks on a daily basis. The school diary must be signed by parent/guardian as arranged by the class teacher. This is an additional mode of communication between the parents and classroom teacher.

EVALUATION

The homestudy team is responsible for the annual review of the homestudy policy. The review will be based on the success of the program offered and any problems that are identified during evaluation time.

Specifically, the evaluation will examine the recommended times for each grade, the suitability of chosen tasks, level of parental support, and flexibility of the document in term of implementation. A selection of parents, students and staff will be surveyed to assist in the evaluation.

Last review May 09 Next review May 11