

Strathmore North Primary School

HOMWORK POLICY

Purpose

Homework benefits students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering lifelong learning and good study habits, and by providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. Homework enables students to develop organisational and time-management skills, self-discipline and skills in accessing and utilising resources within the wider school community.

General Guidelines

Homework should:

- Develop a partnership between home and school with parents encouraging children to establish good homework routines.
- Be appropriate to the student's age, skill, ESL (English as a Second Language) background and confidence level.
- Be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum, yet be interesting, challenging and where appropriate, open-ended.
- Enable the extension of class work by reinforcing and practicing skills, completing unfinished work and include the gathering of extra information or materials.
- Develop the children's ability to manage their time effectively in order to complete set tasks within a specific time.
- Be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided. Feedback is also encouraged from parents and students.
- Prepare children for Secondary School.
- Be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities and not exceed the Department's guidelines regarding time requirements:
 - Early Years (P-4) - up to 30 minutes daily. However, students will be encouraged to continue reading for their enjoyment.
 - Middle Years (5-6) - range from 30 to 45 minutes daily.
- Specific homework will not be set on weekends or during holiday periods.
- Alternative homework arrangements may be negotiated between school and home for students with Individual Learning Plans, if deemed necessary.

Implementation

Parents will be provided with two specific homework documents.

1. School homework policy (This will be provided in the Parent Information Pack given out on Book Pack day.)
2. Learning team homework expectations/guidelines. (These guidelines will be provided to each student at the beginning of the school year.)

Teachers are expected to:

- Help students establish a home study routine by setting regular and realistic amounts of homework, which will:
 1. Be relevant to the childrens' individual academic abilities and learning needs.
 2. Be varied, challenging and meaningful tasks, which relate to the skills that have already been taught in the classroom.
 3. Include daily reading activities and practice exercises such as spelling and number facts, appropriate to the student's age and year level.
 4. Be consistent across specific grade levels whilst allowing for teacher individuality.
- Provide students with enough time to complete homework taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities.
- Assist students to develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning and to ensure the development of good information skills.
- Make effective use of diaries in Grades 5-6 by providing time for students to enter homework tasks.
- Assess completed homework and provide meaningful feedback, where necessary.
- Communicate to parents any concerns they may have regarding the appropriate completion of set homework by their children.
- Work within school teams to develop strategies to support parents to become active partners in homework.

Students are expected to:

- Complete set homework to a suitable standard, within the set time.
- Discuss any problems associated with the completion of set homework with the appropriate teacher as soon as possible.
- Take responsibility for entering daily reading into diaries (Grades 3-6) and homework tasks into diaries in Grades 5-6.
- Provide feedback to teachers about homework successes and limitations.
- On occasions students can negotiate other homework opportunities. These tasks will be in addition to all school homework requirements.

Parents and caregivers are expected to:

- Assist children in establishing good homework routines from early primary school.
- Encourage children to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation.
- Set aside a **regular daily session** to read and complete homework and help children to balance homework with leisure, recreational, cultural and family activities.
- Ensure the provision of a suitable working environment in which the child can complete their homework with minimal interruptions and oversee the completion of homework at home within the set time.
- Check whether homework has been set and acknowledge the completion of the homework by signing children's Reading Diaries (Prep to Grade 4) and student Homework Diaries (Grades 5 -6).
- Communicate with the relevant teacher regarding positive homework achievements and any problems arising from set homework whenever necessary.
- Follow up the failure of students to complete homework on a regular basis.
- Work positively with teachers to develop home study practices by supporting the need and purpose for homework; by allowing students to work independently, while also sharing the homework experience.
- Encouraging students to accept responsibility when homework has not been completed.

Evaluation

- Teachers will monitor children's completion of homework and the regularity with which it is returned.
- Year level teams will review the nature and appropriateness of the tasks that are set each year in order to develop agreed expectations across the team.
- The school's homework policy will be reviewed at the end of 2009 and then bi-annually as part of the school's policy review cycle.

DEVELOPED: December 2008

TO BE REVIEWED: December 2009