

# HOMESCHOOLING POLICY



INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

## PURPOSE

Homework is purposeful out of class learning that supports the educational program, and helps to develop a child's independence and organisational skills.

## RATIONALE

Teachers inform parents of class homework expectations at the start of each year. Examples of homework tasks are outlined below, with different expectations at different phases of learning. Parents are not expected to teach their child, but may provide assistance as necessary. If difficulties are being experienced, including excessive time being spent completing tasks or conflict arising, parents are asked to communicate with their child's teacher so that adjustments can be made. This may include differentiation of homework tasks responsive to individual needs of students, for example students with Personal Learning Plans. Classroom teachers and specialist teachers work together to ensure that homework load is manageable for students.

## YEAR LEVEL GUIDELINES

Please note that these are homework suggestions and may be subject to change to support the learning program.

### Kindergarten and Pre-Primary

Homework in early childhood supports students to develop a sense of identity and wellbeing, connect and contribute to their world, promote effective communication and encourage children to become confident and involved learners.

Examples of homework tasks include:

- Play – indoors and outdoors
- Talking, singing and playing games to support oral language development
- Adults reading to children and informally questioning for comprehension and understanding
- Informal, experiential learning e.g. museum / zoo visits, library borrowing, classroom collections
- Individual student tasks to support learning needs
- Pre-primary Only - Online reading and home reading books

### Years 1 – 2

Homework in the early years should be limited to short, informal tasks, essentially oral in nature, plus reading practice. Suggested time is approximately 1 hour per week. Examples of homework tasks include:

- English:
  - Home reading including school supplied books
  - Reading: reading for pleasure, adults reading to children
  - Spelling: Phonics, spelling and word recognition practice
- Maths: Reinforcement and practice of numeracy concepts and skills
- Researching to find information or preparation of news topics
- Teacher set online activities linked to classroom learning (example SeeSaw, Mathletics and Bug Club)
- Informal, experiential learning e.g. museum/zoo visits, library etc.
- Individual student tasks to support learning needs

### Years 3 – 6

Homework in the middle to upper primary years should strengthen children's independent student skills. A diary or calendar may be used to assist the children to organise their schedule. Suggested time for Years 3-4 is approximately 1 ½ hours per week. Suggested time for Years 5-6 is approximately 1 ½ - 2 ½ hours per week.

Examples of homework tasks include:

- English
  - Reading: Reading for pleasure, adults reading to children
  - Spelling: Practising spelling words
  - Writing: Journal writing or other writing tasks
- Maths: Reinforcement and practice of numeracy concepts and skills
- Research Topics: Short research tasks and projects linked to learning program
- Teacher set online activities linked to classroom learning (example Connect and Mathletics)
- Problem solving tasks or extension opportunities
- Completion of class work where required
- Individual student tasks to support learning needs

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