

## Homework Policy

### Purpose of Homework:

Homework is defined as any activities that help students reflect on their learning. The purpose of homework is for the students to practise and use what they have already learned.

### Rationale:

Homework is seen as one way of supporting and fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children. There are a variety of activities that complement classroom teaching and help students to be responsible for their own learning.

### Expectation:

All students will be provided with homework tasks. It is expected that all students complete homework tasks as per the policy guidelines or purpose set by teacher. However, we also understand the importance for families to have sufficient time for family, cultural pursuits, sport and recreation. Parents should contact their child's teacher if homework becomes too stressful at home or their child is unable to complete the task.

### Aims:

- To support and extend and apply classroom learning
- To develop the responsibility for self-learning
- To build on the school/home partnership

### Implementation:

- The school's Homework Policy will be distributed to parents at the commencement of each school year.
- Students are encouraged to spend some quality time reflecting on their school day and their learning

### Parents Involvement:

At Sunshine Heights Primary School we would like parents to play an active role in their child's education. Homework is a great opportunity for parents to learn more about what their child is doing at school. The policy that has been developed allows parents to play an active role.

Things parents can do to support their child with homework:

- In the primary years of schooling, parents can play an important role by modelling to their child effective reading and writing behaviours. This includes such things as:
  - Reading with/to your child for enjoyment
  - Writing in front of your child or with your child
  - Playing a game with your child that allows them to practise what they have learned at school
  - Going to the library with your child
- Help your child set up a consistent organised place for homework to be done
- Help your child develop a consistent schedule for completing homework
- Encourage, motivate and prompt your child. Remember that the purpose of homework is for your child to practise and use what they have learned. If your child is not able to consistently do the homework by themselves then contact your child's teacher
- Ensure there is a balance between the time spent of homework and recreational activities
- Discuss homework with their child in their first language and link it to previous experiences
- Link homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community groups
- If your child is practising a skill, ask them to tell you which steps are easy for them, which are difficult, or how they are going to improve. If your child is doing a project, ask them what knowledge they are applying in the project. If your child is not able to consistently talk about the knowledge they are practising or using, contact your child's teacher.
- When bedtime comes, please stop your child, even if he/she is not done.

### Year Prep - Two

Activities can consist mainly of:

- Encouraging reading activities to, with and by parents
- Suggested enrichment activities for parents to engage in with their children
- Tasks may be modified for students requiring individual Learning Plans.
- Activities will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day.

### Year Three and Four

The purpose and the expected outcome of the homework task will be clearly communicated.

Activities will consist mainly of:

- Independent reading on a daily basis
- Tasks that can be completed independently to support classroom learning.
- Tasks may be modified for students requiring individual Learning Plans.
- Activities will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day.

It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.

Participation in activities resulting in success will build on a child's self esteem and future learning. We value and celebrate all students' attempts at continuing their learning outside of school

#### Year Five and Six

The purpose and the expected outcome of the homework task will be clearly communicated.

The purpose of homework in Year 5 and 6 is to develop good work habits, time management and organisational skills in order to prepare students for Secondary Education. A homework diary will be used to provide regular communication between the parents and the school.

Activities will consist mainly of:

- Independent reading on a daily basis
- Tasks that can be completed independently to support classroom learning.
- Tasks may be modified for students requiring individual Learning Plans.
- This time will generally not exceed 45 minutes per day.

It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.

Participation in activities resulting in success will build on a child's self esteem and future learning. We value and celebrate all students' attempts at continuing their learning outside of school

#### What will happen if my child does not complete their homework?

Students will not be kept inside during recess or lunch to complete unfinished homework tasks. This may be varied if it is unfinished class work. Teachers will contact parents if they have any issues regarding homework tasks.

#### Teacher's role:

- To provide homework as per the policy.
- Monitor the homework. This includes providing feedback to students. The type of feedback will vary depending the task, purpose of the task, expected outcome, student etc.
- Teachers will be sensitive to the families circumstances that may impact on a student completing homework as per the policy.

#### Sample of the type of support to be provided to parents by the school: and communicated via the newsletter each year:

- The benefits of the reading to your child
- What things can parents do and say when reading to your child
- Literacy and Numeracy tips published weekly.
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Support to be provided throughout the year via conversations with teachers, during parent and teacher interviews, newsletter, parent information sessions etc.

**Policy ratified by School Council on: August 2011**  
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