

# Drillham State School



## Homework Policy



# RATIONALE

In line with the P-12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework (As per Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 section 427(2)(f) ) schools are required to develop a school homework policy. The school homework policy is:

- developed and reviewed in consultation with the school community
- disseminated to the school community
- informed by the Parent and community engagement framework.

It is important that the homework policy is monitored to ensure:

- Consistent and effective implementation throughout the school including a consistent approach to the amount of time students spend completing homework
- The amount of homework is balanced to allow sufficient time for family, recreation, and community and cultural activities.
- Students are not disadvantaged by the lack of access to resources outside of school
- Homework is effective in supporting learning.

Homework is most effective when it:

- Is clearly related to class work
- Is appropriate to particular years of schooling
- Is varied and differentiated to individual learning needs
- Consolidates, revises and / or applies students' classroom learning
- Develops students' independence as a learner
- Assists students to prepare for upcoming classroom learning
- Is monitored by the teacher.

The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have sufficient time for family, recreation, community and cultural activities. Setting of homework needs to ensure that no student is disadvantaged due to a lack of resources and that homework supports learning.

Homework can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- revision and practise to consolidate learning
- practising for mastery
- rote learning opportunities for number facts and spelling
- preparing for forthcoming classroom learning by collecting relevant materials, items, information

In line with the work of John Hattie (Visible Learning), to improve 'Effect size,' homework at Drillham will be:-

- task-orientated / basic skills - rote learning, practice and rehearsal of subject matter
- not complex
- focused on literacy and numeracy
- short
- frequently monitored and supported by teachers / staff
- reinforce that students can learn by themselves supported by teachers

# ROLES

In implementing the school's homework policy, teachers will:

- Use homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work.
- Ensure homework is appropriate to student's learning needs.
- Check homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback
- Clearly communicating the purpose and expectations of all homework
- Give consideration to other demands on student's time
- Discuss with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggest strategies to assist with their homework.
- Help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by setting homework on a regular basis
- Explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practise these strategies through homework.

At Drillham students are rewarded for reading more than the set amount of time each night, cumulative over the week.

- Prep & year 1 – 7 minutes per night minimum. 40 minutes plus for the week is considered over and above
- Year 2 to 6 - 10 minutes per night minimum. 60 minutes plus for the week is considered over and above.
- Staff schedule rewards at the beginning of each term for reading and homework.

In implementing the school's homework policy, parents will:

- Be actively involved in supporting students to complete their homework
- Encouraging students to take responsibility for their learning
- Help students balance and organise their time between homework, family, recreation, and community and cultural activities.
- Contacting the classroom teacher to discuss any concerns about their children's approach to the homework, avoiding 'completing' homework for students.
- Sign relevant sections to confirm tasks were completed e.g. reading.

In implementing the school's homework policy, students will:

- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- Apply themselves to all tasks set, completing them to the best of their ability.
- Hand homework in on time.
- Follow up on comments made by teachers
- Seek assistance when required from teachers and parents.
- Organise their time and work with parents to manage their time between homework, family, recreation and community and cultural activities.
- Ensure parents/carers have signed relevant sections to confirm tasks were completed.

YEAR	AGREED EXPECTATIONS
<b>PREP</b>	Homework in Prep is not homework as per year 1 to 6 but rather time set aside to read and participate in conversation with parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily reading with by parents/caregivers/ family members (7 minutes minimum)</li> <li>• Language orientated worksheet lead by parents.</li> </ul>
<b>YEAR 1</b>	Homework could be up to but generally not more than one hour per week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily reading (7minutes minimum) with adult/family member.</li> <li>• Next set of sight words (approx. 10 to 20).</li> <li>• Write out weekly spelling words 5 times.</li> <li>• Write out a sentence for each weekly spelling word</li> <li>• Write out number facts 4 times</li> <li>• Conversations about what is happening at school.</li> </ul>
<b>YEAR 2 &amp; 3</b>	Homework could be up to but generally not more than one hour per week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily reading (10 minutes minimum) with adult/family member.</li> <li>• Next set of sight words (approx. 10 to 20).</li> <li>• Write out weekly spelling words 5 times.</li> <li>• Write out a sentence for each weekly spelling word</li> <li>• Write out number facts 4 times</li> <li>• Conversations about what is happening at school.</li> </ul>
<b>YEAR 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>	Homework in Year 4/5 could be up to but generally not more than two to three hours per week while Year 6 could be up to but generally not more than three to four hours per week differentiated according to individual needs and year level requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily independent reading (10 minutes minimum)</li> <li>• Write out weekly spelling words 5 times.</li> <li>• Write out a sentence for each weekly spelling word</li> <li>• Write out number facts 4 times</li> <li>• Conversations about what is happening at school.</li> </ul>

- Homework is distributed on the first day of the school week e.g. Monday morning.
- Homework is handed in on the last day of the school week to be marked e.g Friday morning
- **Homework is to be handed in earlier if unable to hand in on the due day.** This includes where relevant, sight word books, reading packs and exercise books.

Students wishing to participate in Miles and District (M&D) and South West (SW) sporting events must complete homework with rigor, and consistency. It is at the principal’s discretion if students participate in sporting events. Poor commitment to class work and homework will affect nominations. To be considered for sporting nomination homework must be:

- Handed in on time or earlier (with commitment to associated weekly testing – spelling & number facts)
- It must be completed with a high degree of accuracy and commitment (e.g. at least minimum amount read each night).

# ORGANISATION

- Students have 2 homework exercise books – odd week and even week.
- Homework sheets are glued into exercise books by staff. Prep use their sheet for all tasks.
- Homework is set Monday night to Thursday night.
  
- Reading effort is recorded each week, and students have the opportunity to achieve rewards based on the minimum time read and any reading over and above the minimum.
- Homework is rated as: not being completed, needing work, being completed with errors or being well done without errors. This information is placed on student's individual profiles.
- Individuals who regularly display issues of completing homework at home will be required to complete homework at school for a period of time set by the classroom teacher. Homework may be completed during lunch times or up until the bus arrives in the afternoon (as per Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 – Part 3 282 subsection 3)

## Sight words

From term 4 in Prep to approximately the end of Year 2, students focus on instantly recognizing and understanding the FRY 1000 list of sight words. These words are provided in a booklet to allow of individual progression. Students focus on learning the next 10 to 20 unknown words each week. Games such as memory, snap, and fish can be played to reinforce learning. Verbalizing sentences with the words is also effective. Do not write on booklet.

Sight words are tested on a Friday. If the word is instantly recognized, staff will initial the word. The following week if instantly recognized staff will highlight the word and focus on new words. Staff keep a copy of known words at the school. Throughout the year words are tested (up to 1000) and unknown words are added to current list.

## Reading

Students reading level 1 to 30 books (Generally Prep – Year 2) are provided with a book pack each week that is at an independent level. It is expected all books are read within the week. Students reading above level 30 (Generally Year 3 to 6) read books borrowed from the library or home appropriate to their reading ability. Book titles are to be recorded on the homework sheet along with amount of time read, with a parent's signature. Students are expected to read for the minimum time specified. Students are rewarded for reading longer than the minimum time.

## Spelling

Students receive an individualised set of words each week. Words are written out each night using Look, say, spell, cover, write technique. Students have individualized lists developed from a pre-test throughout the term. Depending on student's accuracy, words may come from a lower or higher level. Words are written out three times in columns on the homework sheet. Then on the exercise book, once before the sentence and one within the sentence, generally on the right hand page. Spelling is tested generally on a Friday morning.

## Sentences

Students need to write a sentence for each of their spelling words. The sentences are to be written in their exercise book (generally on right hand page then over the page). The focus word is written before the sentence and within the sentence. Sentences must demonstrate an understanding of the word being used.

## Number Facts

Number facts are learnt in strategy groups. Students are to write out their number facts and answers 4 times a week on the homework sheet. Students in year 1 have one set. Year 2 to 6 have two sets. Number facts are generally tested Friday morning.