

Eden Public School



Homework Policy 2010

DEFINITION

Homework is purposeful out-of-class learning that seeks to enhance and consolidate the educational programs of the school.

RATIONALE

Homework bridges the gap between learning at school and learning at home. It reinforces work done in class and helps to develop skills such as research and time management. Homework helps to establish habits of study, concentration and self discipline. Parents/caregivers have the opportunity to see the progress of their child. Homework provides challenges and stimulus to gifted and talented children.

BASIC RULES OF HOMEWORK

The basic rules of homework are that it:

- is appropriate for each student's age and ability;
- links directly to the class teaching/learning program;
- takes into account students' other commitments, such as sport and home responsibilities; and
- takes into account technology such as email and the Internet so that students without access are not disadvantaged.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

1. Practice Exercises that help students to remember and practice newly acquired skills – such as memorising mathematical tables, practicing spelling words, writing in a range of different text types and reading for pleasure.
2. Preparatory Homework that requires students to source and read background information to prepare them for future lessons on a specific subject – such as reading an article on the Gold Rush in preparation for work or a lesson in Australian History.
3. Extension Work that encourages students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Work may include writing a book review, researching local news, retrieving items from the Internet or completing some other form of research assignment.

TIME SPENT ON HOMEWORK

Teachers and parents need to consider the individual work habits and abilities of children when setting homework. The following are estimated recommended times from the Department of Education and Training:

Early Stage 1 and stage 1	10-15 minutes
Stage 2	15-20 minutes
Stage 3	2—40 minutes

EXPECTATIONS

Parents and caregivers can help by:

- taking an active interest in homework;
- ensuring that there is time set aside for homework;
- providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study;
- encouraging children to read and take an interest in current events;
- assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount and appropriateness of homework set; and
- communicating with teachers and concerns about the homework and their children's approach to the homework.

Teachers can help by:

- explaining to students and parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework;
- ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy;
- providing quality homework activities related to class work;
- setting a suitable amount of relevant homework;
- ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed;
- marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students, parents and caregivers; and
- alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist the child with their homework.

Students can help by:

- being aware of the importance of homework;
- being aware of the school's homework policy;
- completing homework within the given time frame;
- alerting parents or caregivers to homework expectations;
- seeking assistance from teachers, parents or caregivers when difficulties arise;
- showing their homework to their parents or caregivers;
- ensuring homework is of a high standard; and
- organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.

DARE TO DREAM, ACT TO ACHIEVE.