

Normanhurst Public School

Homework Policy

Implemented 2023



The Homework Policy is based on the NSW Department of Education and Communities Homework Policy (2012). It has been compiled with qualitative data collection from the whole school community and based on current research into the purpose and benefits of homework.



Definition of Homework

“Homework is any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non- school hours.”

(NSW DEC, 2012 Homework Policy)

Rationale

Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning while developing sound study habits and time management skills. It needs to be challenging, meaningful and relevant, catering to all ability levels and individual learning styles. It provides important opportunities for parents to share in their child’s education journey, strengthening communication between home and school. It is likely that homework quality is enhanced when the principles of effective pedagogy are utilised (Trautwein & Ludtke, 2009). Homework must have a clear purpose. Teachers should ensure that students fully understand what they are supposed to learn. It must be tailored to the audience. The amount should reflect the student’s age and stage of development with expectations differing across early, middle and senior learning phases (Dixon, 2007). Many students need additional support with both the academic and logistical aspects of homework (Blazer, 2009). The assistance can be provided by the parents or teacher.

Policy Statement

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.

(NSW DEC, 2012 Homework Policy)

The aim of the Homework Policy is to create consistency across Normanhurst Public School.



Implementation

Guidelines

Homework activities should:

- Provide a purposeful learning experience that reinforces and consolidates work done in class
- Be stimulating and appropriate for the age and abilities of students
- Be clearly communicated
- Encourage students to take responsibility for their learning
- Not disadvantage students who do not have access to technology at home
- If technology based homework/projects are set a non- technological alternative should be set for the students who do not have access to technology at home.

Role of the Principal

- Develop a Homework Policy, in consultation with their school community.
- Communicate the Homework Policy to staff students, parents/caregivers.
- Monitor and support teachers in the implementation of the Homework Policy.
- Ensure that homework is consistent with the school's learning goals.
- Support the need for balance between homework and the many other commitments in students' lives.
- Provide mechanisms for teachers and parents/caregivers to communicate about homework.
- Recognise that some parents/caregivers may not agree with the school policy on homework. This may necessitate the development of alternative strategies.

Role of the Teacher

- Implement the school's Homework Policy.
- Communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to students and parents/caregivers, including due dates etc.
- Acknowledge student effort in completing homework and provide timely and relevant feedback on achievement.
- Ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for students.
- Support students having difficulties with homework.
- Discuss with students and parents/caregivers any developing issues regarding a student's homework.
- Discuss and review homework practices with colleagues and how they reflect literature evidence.

(NSW DEC, 2012 Homework Policy, pg. 6)

Role of the Parent/Caregiver

Parent/Caregivers play an important role in encouraging homework completion. Parents and caregivers will therefore be informed of any changes to homework routines.

- While homework is designed for students to complete independently, parents and carers are encouraged to be involved with their child's homework.
- Parents are to encourage their child to complete and submit the homework.
- Parents are to encourage their child to 'have a go' before stepping in and providing assistance.
- Parents should notify the teacher if there is any difficulty with the tasks set.
- Parents are asked to sign any documentation requiring a signature eg reading log.
- Parents are invited to provide feedback to their child/teacher.
- Set an environment and routine at home that fits their family and homework requirements.

Role of the Student

- Students need to make sure that they take home all required resources to complete their homework.
- Students need to manage their time so there is no panic when homework is due.
- Students will be expected to complete their homework with minimal parent/caregiver assistance and return it by the due date.



Age Specific Considerations

Early Stage 1

In general, students are not expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. Students will be given home readers to support their learning in class. These should be practised each night.

Stage 1

In Year 1 and 2 some formal homework may be set. For example, students might be asked to read and write, learn words for spelling and complete some mathematical activities.

Stage 2 and Stage 3

Homework in Stage 2 may be varied and students may be expected to work more independently. Students should be encouraged to read and practise mathematical concepts learnt at school. Other homework may also be set across areas of the curriculum.

(NSW DEC, 2012 Homework Policy, pg. 5)

| Normanhurst Public School Stage Homework Expectations | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Stage | Reading | Spelling | Maths | Assignment Tasks | Optional Activities |
| Early Stage 1 | Read every night | | Two assigned Mathletics tasks | | |
| Stage 1 | Read every night | Choose words from suggested lists to complete two matrix activities | Two assigned Mathletics tasks Weekly whole number or skip counting focus | | Numeracy matrix activities |
| Stage 2 | Read for 15 – 20 minutes per night | Choose words from suggested lists to complete two matrix activities | Two assigned Mathletics tasks Weekly skip counting / times table focus | | Real-world Mathematics tasks Social Challenge |
| Stage 3 | Read for 15 – 20 minutes per night | Choose words from suggested lists to complete two matrix activities | Two assigned Mathletics tasks | Yr 5: One assignment task per term Yr 6: Two assignment tasks per term | Homework Matrix exploring wider curriculum |

Normanhurst Public School's Homework Policy will be monitored and reviewed in Term 4 2023.



Normanhurst Public School's Homework Policy is based on:

- NSW Department of Education and Communities Homework Policy (2012)
- NSW Department of Education and Communities Homework Policy Research Scan (2012)
- NSW Department of Education and Communities Homework Policy Guidelines (2012)
- Dixon, N., Parliamentary Library. (2007). Homework for the 21st century. Brisbane: Research Publications and Resources Section Queensland Parliamentary Library.
- Dettmers, S., Trautwein, U., & Lüdtke, O. (2009). The relationship between homework time and achievement is not universal: Evidence from multilevel analyses in 40 countries. *School Effectiveness and School Improvement*, 20, 375-405. EJ861792