



Attadale
Primary School

Foundations for life

HOMEWORK POLICY: YEARS 1-6

RATIONALE

Homework is purposeful out of class learning that seeks to enhance the extent to which each child benefits from their education.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Teachers to inform parents of class homework policy procedures, appropriate time commitments and expectations at parent meeting in first term.
- Must be relevant to the child's educational needs and not used as a form of sanction; is to be an opportunity for home and school to work co-operatively to support children's learning.
- Must be clearly explained with sufficient written instructions and when skill subjects are involved, be revision of work that is understood by the pupils.
- Is a strategy to enhance the student's self discipline and independent learning skills in an environment other than school.
- Should require an appropriate time commitment and not impact unreasonably on the development of personal and social skills or "family time".
- If set, homework must be checked routinely by the teacher.
- To be successful, homework needs parent support.

HOMEWORK POLICY (Kindergarten/Pre-Primary)

There will be no formal work set at the kindergarten/pre-primary level. Your child's progress will be assisted by the following:

- Read to her/him daily;
- Count things whenever an interesting opportunity allows;
- Allow him/her to help with cooking;
- Take an interest in the things your child brings home and talks about from school;
- Have stationary available for his/her use – pencils, felt pens, scissors, paper, glue, etc;
- Encourage running, climbing, balancing, ball play (throwing, catching, kicking, batting), getting dirty (sand, mud, paint, etc).

For these to be useful, the child's interest must be engaged. If it isn't, try again another time. The teacher may also give parents ideas and suggestions for encouraging their child's development and to support the learning in the kindergarten/pre-primary programme.

JUNIOR PRIMARY (Years 1 – 3)

Homework in these early years should be limited to short tasks. These should form the basis of a positive opportunity for parents and children to enjoy learning together.

Examples of appropriate homework tasks in this area are:

- Phonics, spelling and word recognition practice
- Nightly oral reading, reading for pleasure, adults reading to children
- Finding pictures in magazines to support class work and
- Discussing health/social studies activities with parents: Eg, bedtime, lunch, etc
- Practice and reinforcement of number facts as appropriate.
- Other activities may be given to consolidate classroom work.



MIDDLE PRIMARY (Years 4 – 5)

Homework in the middle primary years is most effective when the teacher develops a simple and effective routine for setting out the homework requirements, distributing the homework and marking it. Homework can be the vehicle for children, parents and teachers to work together to assist the child's development. In the middle years of primary schooling, homework should provide children with practice and reinforcement opportunities and introduce them to the process of investigating and researching independently.

Examples of appropriate homework tasks in this area are:

- Reading for pleasure
- Practice to reinforce number facts and tables
- Practice of mathematics taught in class
- Introducing research and problem solving tasks that recognise the limitations of the children's access to references and resources; school library is open before school each day and most lunch times
- Journal writing
- Learning spelling words
- Finishing a story
- Reading a story written by the child to parents

UPPER PRIMARY (Years 6)

Effective homework in the upper primary years includes, but goes beyond practice and reinforcement exercises as in previous years.

Effective homework seeks to:

- Strengthen independent study skills;
- Motivate children to study by setting them interesting and challenging tasks that are related to their class work
- As with the middle primary years it works best when the teacher develops a simple but effective routine for setting out the homework requirements
- Homework requirements should recognise the need for children to have time for out of school interests, friends, family, social activities and personal time.

Examples of appropriate homework tasks in this area are:

- Practice and reinforcement exercises arising from class work
- Short and longer term tasks that develop time management skills
- Reading for pleasure
- Book reviews
- Work that involves research and investigatory skills but recognises the limitation of the children's access to references and resources; the school library is open before school each day and during most lunch times.
- Thinking challenges.

The following recommendations are included as parental information:

- Provide your child with a quiet time and place to do homework



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- Show a genuine interest in your child's homework and become involved, but refrain from doing it for them
- Establish a homework routine and be aware of homework procedures
- Ensure that your child has the tools they need to do their homework, Eg, pens, pencils, rulers, erasers, glue, scissors and paper
- Have an atlas and dictionary in the home
- Be willing to make the occasional visit to the school and/or public library with your child.

NOTE: Supervised access to the Internet may well be of assistance to students engaged in research tasks.