

BUNDEENA PUBLIC SCHOOL

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NSW DoE HOMEWORK POLICY



Developed 2019

Review date 2021

Rationale

Homework is defined as any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours and designed to meet specific learning goals. (DoE 2012)

Experiences and activities at home that help to create a rich learning environment for children are to be encouraged. They should not, however, be considered as homework unless they are assigned by the child's teacher.

Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning that could develop sound study habits and time management skills. It needs to be meaningful and relevant, catering to all intelligences and individual learning styles. It provides important opportunities for parents to share their child's education strengthening communication between home and school.

This policy clarifies a consistent and manageable whole school approach to student homework K-6 at Bundeena Public School. The policy is written to ensure that homework is "purposeful and relevant to student needs and that it should not jeopardise the right of children to enjoy a balanced lifestyle" (Dixon, 2007).

Policy statement

In 2019 the school community was consulted to determine homework expectations. Key messages from parents, staff and students were: our school community supports the provision of homework; students need enough time to complete homework; homework should have activities which motivate students and include the practice of reading, maths, hands on experiences and online programs.

The aim of the Homework Policy is to create consistency across Bundeena Public School. 98% of our parent community who responded to our survey believed that reading was the most relevant homework for their child. While homework is an important component of the teaching and learning process, at Bundeena Public School we recognise the importance of teaching the whole child. Students should have time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

Guidelines

Student homework at Bundeena PS will be:

- appropriate for each student's age and ability
- relevant to each student's needs
- purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- varied and challenging, but achievable
- built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework
- considerate of students' access to resources and technology beyond school
- considerate of students' outside of school hours commitments

Role of the Principal

The Principal of Bundeena Public School will:

- 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

Teachers at Bundeena Public School will:

- 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.

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 should encourage their child to complete and submit the homework.
- Parents should encourage their child to 'have a go' before stepping in and aiding.
- Parents should notify the teacher if there are any difficulties with the tasks set.
- Parents should sign any documentation requiring a signature eg reading log
- Parents are invited to provide feedback to their child/teacher
- Parents are encouraged to set an environment and routine at home that fits their family and homework requirements.

Role of the Student

Students of Bundeena Public School will:

- 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.

Grade/Stage Guidelines

Grade	Activity	Duration
Kindergarten	In general, students are not expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. Students will be given home readers and sight words to support their learning in class. These should be practised each night.	10 minutes/night
Stage 1 Years 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home Reading & completion of a reading log• News Topics• Matific/Literacy Planet	15 minutes/night
Stage 2 Years 3 and 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home Reading, completion of a reading log and online quizzes through the Literacy Pro website• Spelling• Matific	20 minutes/night
Stage 3 Years 5 and 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home Reading, completion of a reading log and online quizzes through the Literacy Pro website• Spelling• Matific• 1 research task per semester	25 minutes/night

Informing and reporting

Students and parents/caregivers are responsible for the completion of homework.

Teachers record the completion or non-completion of homework. A copy of the Homework Policy will be provided to parents at enrolment and will be available on the school website.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The Homework Policy is monitored by the school leadership team. Feedback from staff, students and parents will be discussed at stage, parent and executive meetings as issues arise. The policy will be reviewed by school staff biannually for updating through parent, student and staff surveys.