



CONCORD WEST HOMEWORK POLICY

Reviewed 2015

Rationale

Homework is one method of linking student learning from school to home. It reinforces work done in class and helps develop study skills such as time management and research. Homework can help establish the habits of study, concentration and self-discipline. Parents/Caregivers have the opportunity to engage with their child's learning, monitor progress and raise concerns if they arise.

Policy Statement

This policy has been developed in consultation with key community stakeholders including teachers, parent/carers and students. Evaluation and review of the policy considered community expectations and feedback, research regarding the value of homework and the Department of Education Homework Policy and Guidelines.

Implementation

Quality

Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced when homework:

- is appropriate for each student's age and ability. Suggested amounts of homework will be set
- builds on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- is clearly stated and the requirements made explicit during class time
- is supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulty with homework. Parents should communicate with teachers if there are any concerns or issues.

Manageability

The quantity of homework needs to be manageable so teachers can ensure quality, and can provide feedback to students. Homework that is manageable will:

- be clearly communicate to students including making links to their learning and expectations
- be modified or differentiated by the teacher in consultation with the parent if needed (for example for students with limited English)
- take into account student extra-curricular commitments and allow for flexibility and options for different circumstances
- take into account technology ensuring that students without access are not disadvantaged.

The school recognises the diverse attitudes in the community to homework. While there are benefits in students completing homework, it is not compulsory. Parents have a right to decide that their child will not complete homework and need to communicate this to their child's teacher. Extra-curricular activities such as learning an instrument, playing sport or being part of a community activity such as scouts are highly supported by teachers.

Procedures and Communication

Each teacher selects homework tasks that are directly related to work undertaken in class and stage/grade and will develop a set of homework procedures, in line with this policy, that meet the needs of their students and the teacher's teaching style.

Teachers will:

- communicate expectations for homework to students and parents including timeframes and procedures
- be consistent throughout the year in the establishment and continuation of a homework pattern
- set homework tasks where the criteria for marking or feedback is clear and the purpose of the task is made clear in relation to the learning sequence and outcomes to be achieved
- promptly and accurately mark and provide feedback on homework completed
- encourage and respond promptly to parent concerns or student issues.

Age Specific Considerations

Kindergarten – Year 2

Homework in Kindergarten will generally be limited to reading and practising sight-words.

In Years 1 and 2 some formal homework may be set. As well as reading, this may include spelling and mathematics activities. At times students may be asked to investigate ideas and make links between their learning at school and real life (ie look for cubes in the environment or mapping their bedroom).

If parents are having any issues with reading, we encourage them to seek support from the class teacher. Reading should not be a cause for conflict. We encourage parents to read to their child each day as this allows time to develop vocabulary, comprehension and a love of books.

Years 3 – 6

Homework in Years 3 – 6 may be varied and students may be expected to work more independently. While practise of English and mathematical skills are still a focus, homework will be set across other areas of the curriculum. Students may be set research or projects linked to topics they are studying at school.

On average, the amount of time for each Year need not exceed:

Kindergarten to Year 2, **maximum** 10—15 minutes per night (**including reading in K-2**)

Year 3-4, **maximum** 15—25 minutes per night (plus reading)

Years 5-6, **maximum** 120 minutes per week (plus reading). This allows Years 5/6 to flexibly manage their time on homework and other extra-curricular and social demands in preparation for high school.

Monitoring , Evaluation and Review

Monitoring of implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Principal. The policy will be available on the school website and given to parents when they enrol their child.

Teachers will collaboratively and regularly evaluate the homework being assigned in terms of its educational value, purpose and the extent to which tasks are engaging and meeting the needs of the students.

Evaluation and review of the policy as required.