



EASTWOOD HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY



1. Policy statement

- 1.1 Homework at Eastwood Heights Public School is optional, to provide the flexibility necessary to meet variable community expectations. Parents/carers that wish to opt out of homework for their children can do so with a signed note to that effect addressed to the classroom teacher.
- 1.2 Homework will be age-appropriate, manageable, and evidence-based in its educational emphasis at each stage of schooling. It will provide a mechanism for school-home communication on the focus of children's learning at school and their current progress.
- 1.3 An overview of the homework expectations and emphases for each stage of schooling is outlined below:
 - K-2: Reading (including home readers and sight words), practising sounds/spelling (5-10 mins nightly max.)
 - Years 3-6: A more structured approach to each night's homework, aligned to current classwork across the key learning areas. Homework will particularly target practice in mathematics, spelling, writing, and reading. Children may also be provided with an opportunity to complete work commenced in class. (Years 3-4: 10-20 mins nightly max.; Years 5-6: 15-30 mins nightly max.)
- 1.4 At all stages of schooling, every opportunity will be made to provide flexible completion periods where appropriate (e.g. due fortnightly). Homework may sometimes be designed to provide students with further opportunity to progress specific open-ended activities such as project work, research tasks, and presentation preparation, beyond the mandatory time allocated in class.

2. Context

- 2.1 Community expectations about homework are variable.
- 2.2 There is general community consensus that homework should be optional.
- 2.3 Research is inconclusive in relation to the impact of homework on students' academic achievement in primary school. However, the positive impact of regular reading and other literacy-based activities at home is widely accepted.
- 2.4 Homework may help primary school students to develop effective study habits, including in planning and organising their time, concentration and self-discipline. These skills are particularly important in facilitating effective transition to secondary school.
- 2.5 Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:
 - appropriate for each student's age and ability
 - purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
 - built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
 - clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
 - varied and challenging, but achievable
 - supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.
- 2.6 Research indicates that the quantity of homework needs to be manageable. Homework that is manageable for students will:
 - be age appropriate
 - consider students' outside of school hours commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition and home responsibilities
 - take into account students' access to resources and technology beyond school
 - be clearly communicated to students
 - provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances.

3. Responsibilities and delegations

3.1 The principal is responsible for developing and implementing the school homework policy in close consultation with staff, students, parents and caregivers.

3.2 Executive teachers (Assistant Principals) are responsible for developing and implementing consistent homework expectations across their years of responsibility, in line with the policy statement above, and for communicating these expectations to parents/carers at the beginning of each year.

3.3 Teachers are responsible for setting homework, marking and providing timely feedback to students on completed homework and supporting students having difficulties with homework.

4. Monitoring and evaluation

4.1 Implementation of the Eastwood Heights Public School Homework Policy will be monitored and the policy reviewed each year in close consultation with the school's community.

5. Document History

Version 1.0:

- Endorsed by P&C May 2015
- Implemented Term 3 2015.