

Rationale

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.

Policy Statement/Context

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

Many students will also participate in a range of activities and have diverse experiences outside of school hours that may enhance their learning. 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.

Implementation

While the policy itself is compulsory, the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year levels are not.

Research

A Homework Policy: Research scan was undertaken by the NSW Department of Education and Communities in 2012.

The Homework Policy: Research scan summarises the benefits and the drawbacks of homework, considers strategies to maximise the benefits, and examines in detail whether time spent on homework results in improved student achievement. The roles of parent involvement and socioeconomic status are also considered.

There is little consensus in the literature as to whether homework raises student achievement. Most researchers, however, conclude that for primary students, there is no evidence that homework lifts academic performance.

Responsibilities

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.

Teachers:

- ✓ Implement the school's homework policy
- ✓ Communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to students and parents/caregivers
- ✓ 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 homework practices with colleagues.

Communication

The school's homework policy is communicated annually through the school newsletter and class newsletters. It is available to the school community through our website (www.bogangar-p.school.com.au), on our SkoolBag app and provided at the time of enrolment.

Parents/caregivers who have concerns about their child's difficulties completing homework are encouraged to contact their child's teacher to discuss these concerns so that guidance and assistance can be provided.

Homework requirements

Kindergarten

Students are not required to complete formal homework. However they are encouraged to:

- ✓ practise their sight words
- ✓ read for 15 minutes each night and document in the home reading log provided

Years 1 & 2

Homework tasks are more formal. Students may be asked to:

- ✓ practise their sight words
- ✓ learn words for spelling
- ✓ read for 15 minutes each night and document in the home reading log provided
- ✓ complete activities from a matrix - optional

Stage 2 & 3

Homework in Years 3 – 6 may be varied and students are expected to work more independently. Tasks may include:

- ✓ learning words for spelling
- ✓ read for 15 minutes each night and document in the home reading log provided
- ✓ complete a KLA based project each term

Acknowledgement

Homework tasks should be assigned by teachers with a specific, explicit learning purpose. On completion, teachers should acknowledge student effort and provide feedback related to student learning.

The school has a home reading program where students are recognised with an award and token for each 25 nights reading in K-2 and 50 nights in Years 3 – 6.

Our sight word program acknowledges students' success as they achieve each set of 100 words.

Projects, matrix activities and completion of spelling practise can be encouraged by classroom teachers through their inclass reward systems and/or the School's kookie cards (fast and frequent rewards).

Monitoring, Evaluation & Review

This policy is scheduled for review in 2022.