Pomona State School
Homework Policy and Guidelines

About this Policy

This policy and set of guidelines for homework has been developed following a review of current teacher practices in setting homework and a survey of parents' views.

Our School Community's Beliefs about Homework

Parents and teacher's beliefs about the value of homework both differ and intersect.

The majority of our school community believe homework to be a worthwhile activity for the following reasons. It can:

- provide quality time for parents to interact with their children
- limit the amount of time children spend watching television or playing video or computer games
- encourage parents or carers to talk with their child about their school work
- give parents and opportunity to see what their children are doing in class and to see how they are progressing
- communicate with parents about what their child is doing in class at the time
- assist students to practise skills learnt in class
- reinforce work learnt in class
- assist students to revise content covered in class
- assist students to develop independent study skills
- develop self-discipline in children
- assist students to develop time management/organisational skills
- allow time to finish work not completed by students during class

Some parents feel very strongly that homework should not be set by the school. This policy allows those parents to decline to participate in the class homework program. A notation of this request will be made on the student's file.

Homework Guidelines

The setting of homework:

Each teacher is responsible for putting into action in their class the school's policy guidelines and as such, will develop a set of class homework guidelines appropriate for the needs of that class. These include such things as:

- The teacher's goals for students in the year's or term's homework
- The kinds of homework that will be set
- How homework will be marked
- What role the teacher expects parents to play in homework
- What parents should do when they find there's a problem with homework.

These guidelines will be communicated to the parent group of the class at the beginning of each year. When these guidelines are distributed teachers will ask whether or not students will be participating in the class homework program for the year.

Generally speaking, homework tasks will be directed at improving essential skills in literacy and numeracy. The tasks will reinforce work that has been started in class and will not consist of new skills or knowledge.

Common tasks will include reading practice, spelling practice and number facts practice. Work not completed during class time may also be set for homework.

Homework will be set for four nights of the week (Monday to Thursday) and will be distributed on a Monday. It can be returned any time during the week but will be due on a Friday or a Monday. Some

teachers may distribute homework and include the weekend for completion. Homework will not be set on a daily basis for completion that night except in extenuating circumstances. This is in recognition of students who have after school cultural and sporting commitments.

Assignments and projects:

It is common in the upper school for students to work on longer term assignments and projects. Therefore, homework tasks related to these may consist of collecting and collating materials for presentation of these projects. Students will not be asked to complete research for these tasks as the school understands that not all students' homes are equipped with the resources to do this. Students may choose to do research for their projects as an extra non-compulsory component of homework tasks.

Generally the tasks associated with assignments and projects, i.e. defining the task, locating information, selecting information, organising information and presenting information, will be taught in class time.

Time allocations for homework:

Time allocations vary according to a student's year level and developmental stage. The recommended time allocations are;

Prep: 5-10 minutes (and consisting of sharing the contents of the home folder with a significant adult at home. This routine is to help children learn the responsibilities of taking books and folders to and from school)

Years 1-2: 10-15 minutes per night (and consisting mainly of daily reading practice and word recognition practice)

Years 3-4: 15-20 minutes per night (and includes daily reading practice and other tasks set by the teacher)

Years 5-7: 20-30 minutes per night (and includes daily reading practice and other tasks increasing in complexity by the year level and set by the teacher)

How homework is marked:

Teachers at Pomona State School value the place of homework for the purposes outlined above. Therefore, to emphasise its value to students and their families it will be marked. Each teacher will develop their own system for marking homework and recording the results. This will be communicated to parents at the start of each year.

Consequences for non-completion of homework:

Student's who participate in the class homework program are required to complete a certain amount of homework each week. Students' participation will be encouraged through the use of appropriate class reward systems. These may include:

- Stickers
- Charts
- True Blues
- Teacher notations in the Homework Work

Students not completing homework are requested to bring a note of explanation from parents. This note may consist of a notation in the student's homework book and can be as brief as 'no homework completed on this night'. Such notations need to be signed by parents.

Consequences for not completing homework and not bringing a note of explanation will be at the class teacher's discretion and may include:

- Loss of play time
- Loss of class privileges, e.g. computer or game time