



OATLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOMework POLICY

2016

Homework

This document defines the policy for school students of the NSW Department of Education and Communities for the appropriate and acceptable allocation of Homework within the Oatley Public School setting.

Homework bridges the gap between learning at school and learning at home. It reinforces work done in class. It helps develop skills such as research and time management.

Homework helps to establish the habits of study, concentration and self discipline. Parents/caregivers have the opportunity to see the progress of their child. Homework provides challenges and stimulus to gifted and talented children.

Homework should be a purposeful learning experience which should consolidate and enrich the school's program. It should further the school/home partnership in the education of the child.

Outcomes:

Students will

- ✓ Become more familiar with the work being dealt with in the classroom
- ✓ Become aware of the shared learning between home and school
- ✓ Become reflective and thoughtful learners
- ✓ Establish habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.
- ✓ Plan and organise their time
- ✓ Become more responsible for their own learning
- ✓ Become lifelong learners

Parents will be made aware of the learning processes being used through supervising/reviewing the work being addressed.

'Ideal' homework

The basic rules of homework require that it be;

- ✓ Appropriate for each student's age and ability
- ✓ Take into account students' other commitments, such as sport, part-time employment and home responsibilities
- ✓ Take into account technology such as email and the Internet so that students without access are not disadvantaged.

Three types of homework

1. **Practice exercises** help students to remember and practice newly acquired skills – such as memorizing mathematics tables, practising spelling words, writing essays and reading for pleasure.
2. **Preparatory homework** requires students to source and read background information to prepare them for future lessons on a specific subject – such as reading an article on the Gold Rush in preparation for a lesson in Australian history, Research/Project, Talking/Listening News.
3. **Extension assignments** encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Assignments may include writing a book review, researching local news or retrieving items from the internet. **(OPTIONAL/ADDITIONAL)**

Homework for Kindergarten – Year 2

Reading to children at home and involving them in family activities will greatly assist the development of their skills in literacy, numeracy and problem solving.

In Years K, 1 and 2 some formal homework is usually set. For example, students may be asked to complete simple computations, to copy letters or words, or to complete an activity sheet and synthetic phonics in Kindergarten.

Homework for Year 3 - 6

Homework in Years 3 - 6 will be varied and students will be expected to work more independently. However, teachers will still provide guidance and assistance to students having difficulties completing their homework.

Much of the homework will be in English, Mathematics and Human Society and its Environment. However, it can be set across all areas of the curriculum.

Practice Exercises Duration

The homework is generally set from Monday to Thursday but this varies across stages and grades according to the decision made by teams and their supervisors. The following times for each grade are given as a guide to the length of time each grade should spend on homework each night, four nights a week. Reading for enjoyment is in addition to these times, but, until a child can read, this may take the form of reading by the parent to the child.

Kindergarten – 10 minutes

Year 1 – 10 minutes

Year 2 – 15 minutes

Year 3 – 20 minutes

Year 4 – 20 minutes

Year 5 – 25 minutes

Year 6 – 30 minutes



These times are a guide for the amount of time students should spend on their practice and preparatory homework. Additional / optional is on top of this recommendation

What can parents/caregivers do to help?

- ✓ Take an active interest in your child's homework.
- ✓ Support your child in setting aside time each day for homework.
- ✓ Provide a dedicated place for homework by signing completed work if requested, and be aware of the amount of homework set.
- ✓ Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested, and be aware of the amount of homework set.
- ✓ Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or your child's approach to homework.
- ✓ Encourage your children to read and take an interest in current events.
- ✓ Alert the school to any domestic circumstances or extra curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked.

General Considerations

- ✓ Homework should be treated beforehand in class unless it is given as a challenge or extension work.
- ✓ All homework is to be marked.
- ✓ Should a child have difficulty completing his/her homework within the suggested time frame, then it is recommended that the parent/guardian see the child's teacher to discuss the matter further.
- ✓ If children do a full active day's work at school, there is need for recreation time out of school to allow them to do the sorts of things children enjoy as part of their growing up to ensure a reasonable balance in their lives. Children need time outside of school hours for relaxation and simply being children.

Mrs Deborah Hunter
Principal