

**Mt Keira Demonstration School**

**Homework Policy**

**Rationale**

Homework is considered valuable because it:

* is an important part of schooling and can strengthen links between school and home.
* allows for practising, extending and consolidating knowledge, skills and understandings developed in class.
* consolidates children’s research habits and skills.
* establishes habits of study, time organisation, concentration and self-discipline that will serve children for the rest of their lives.
* reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education.
* provides parents and caregivers with insights into classroom activities and the progress of their children.

**Implementation**

Whilst this policy recognises homework as an important component of the teaching and learning process by reinforcing and extending class work, it also acknowledges that children need to have time to spend with their family as well as for play and cultural and physical activities outside of school.

Therefore it is expected that homework tasks will:

* be appropriate for each child’s stage of learning, age, needs and abilities.
* be set on a regular basis.
* consider children’s home responsibilities and outside of school commitments such as sport, cultural activities and tuition.
* take into account a student’s access to resources and technology beyond school.
* be marked promptly and accurately so that children receive regular feedback.

**Types of Homework**

There are three main types of tasks that may be included in homework.

*Practice Exercises* - provide students with the opportunity to apply new knowledge or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills and understandings. Practice exercises include:

* consolidation exercises e.g. including memorisation of maths facts
* practice for mastery e.g. spelling words
* revising information about a current topic / rich task
* reading for pleasure and/or for skill development e.g. fluency.

*Preparatory Homework* – provide opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit

of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons. Preparatory homework includes:

* background reading
* researching topics for a class unit of work / rich task
* collecting items e.g. geometric shapes, newspaper clippings, shells.

*Extension Assignments* – encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Extension exercises may include:

* writing a book review
* making or designing something, e.g. an art work
* investigations e.g. Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment
* researching e.g. history, local news.

*Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) and Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)*

In general, students in Kindergarten will be expected to read on a daily basis. In Years 1 and 2 children may be expected to complete regular homework each school night (Monday – Thursday). They may be given spelling and/or maths tasks as well as tasks associated with a unit of study / rich task. Reading should continue on a daily basis. All tasks for these stages of learning will reflect the classroom teaching and learning program. As a general guide, homework tasks for children in Kindergarten may take up to 10 minutes each day (40 minutes each week) building to 20 minutes each day (80 each week) for children in Stage 1.

*Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) and Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6)*

In Stages 2 and 3, teachers will continue to provide children with guidance and assistance to complete regular homework each school night (Monday – Thursday). Children may be given spelling and/or maths tasks as well as tasks associated with a unit of study / rich task. Reading should continue on a daily basis. As children approach Year 6, it is expected that the level of independent work will increase. As a general guide, homework tasks for children in Stage 2 may take up to 20 (80 minutes each week) building to 30 minutes each day (120 minutes each week) for children in Stage 3.

**Parental Support**

At Mt Keira Demonstration School it is expected that parents and caregivers will assist their child/ren with homework by:

* taking an active interest in homework.
* ensuring that there is time set aside for homework and that there is a dedicated place free from distractions for homework and study.
* encouraging and supporting their child/ren to complete homework tasks.
* communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their child/ren’s approach to the completion of homework tasks.
* advising the school of any situation / belief that may impact upon the completion of homework tasks.

**Teachers**

At Mt Keira Demonstration School it is expected that teachers will:

* include an information section as part of the homework sheet.
* provide quality homework tasks that relate to the classroom teaching and learning program.
* ensure children are aware of what is expected of them when completing homework tasks.
* mark homework promptly and provide appropriate feedback.
* alert parents or caregivers to any developing problems concerning the completion of homework tasks.

**Acknowledgements**

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

* DEC Homework Policy
* DEC Homework Policy: Research scan (May 2012)
* DEC Homework Policy: Guidelines (May 2012)

This policy was developed in consultation with the Mt Keira Demonstration School community through a parent survey as well as feedback given by members of the P&C Association.