

HOMework POLICY

Faulconbridge Public School

Introduction

Faulconbridge Public School acknowledges the benefits of homework. It provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning; it encourages work habit skills for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involves family members in the learning process. The setting of homework should take into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

Homework Policy Considerations

Quality

Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:

- Appropriate for each student's age and ability
- Relevant to each student's needs
- Purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- Varied and challenging, but achievable
- Built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- Clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- Supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulty with homework

Manageability

The quantity of homework needs to be manageable so that teachers can ensure quality, and can provide feedback to students on completion.

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.

NOTE: students going on holidays will not be given formal individualised homework. It is suggested that they read daily and keep a journal. Education is more than just what happens at school. Non-school experiences greatly benefit a child's development and both parents and teachers share the responsibility for a child's learning.

Expectations

Parents and caregivers can help by:

- Taking an active interest in homework
- Ensuring that there is time set aside for homework
- Encouraging and supporting students to complete homework
- Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study
- Encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework
- Alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected.

Teachers can help by:

- Explaining to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework
- Issuing parents with a copy of the school's Homework Policy at the beginning of each year and clearly stating their class' homework requirements and expectations (*Parent Information Evening*)
- Setting a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student
- Ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- Giving students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account competing home obligations and extracurricular activities
- Marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers

Students can help by:

- Being aware of the importance of homework
- Being aware of their class/year/stage homework procedures
- Completing homework within the given timeframe
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- Ensuring homework is completed to the best of their ability
- Organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.

Age-specific Considerations

Homework for Kindergarten – Year 2

In general, students are not expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. Students are given books to read at home, as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher. All activities at home or in play can assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. It should also be remembered that self-directed play in unstructured time is important. Best Start reports also provide ideas for parents to support their child's learning.

In years 1 and 2 some formal homework may be set. For example, students might be asked to read and write, learn words for spelling and complete some relevant mathematical activities.

Homework for Year 3 – 6

Homework in Years 3 – 6 may be varied and students may be expected to work more independently. Students could be encouraged to read and practice mathematical concepts learnt at school. Other homework may also be set across the other areas of the curriculum.