



Belair Public School

Homework Policy

The NSW Department of Education and Communities' policy specifies that each school is to develop a Homework Policy. A school's Homework Policy should be:

- relevant to the needs of students
- developed in consultation with key school community stakeholders including teachers, parents/caregivers and students.
- communicated to staff, students, parents/caregivers, particularly at the time of student enrolment.

In developing their Homework Policy, schools should be aware that while the Policy itself is compulsory, the setting of homework and time allocations across year levels are not.

Rationale:

Research consistently indicates that, for primary school students, there is no evidence that homework lifts academic performance. There is some merit, however, in the argument that developing good homework habits in Stage 3 can support students once they get to high school. Due to the questions around effectiveness of traditional homework, this policy has been developed with the intention of:

- Engaging students in homework activities which will enhance their learning, particularly in English and mathematics;
- Minimising impact on class learning time;
- Providing flexibility in the manner in which students can engage with homework.

Stage Focus

Early Stage 1: Home Reading, preparing for news.

Stage 1: Home Reading, preparing for news (Year 2 some focus on maths facts)

Stage 2: Reading & maths facts

Stage 3: Reading & maths facts; activities to promote positive homework behaviours and reinforce class learning.

Additional Possibilities: Students may be asked to collect information to bring to the classroom to enhance their learning and the learning of others. Students involved in extra curricular activities may catch up on work at home.

Technology tools such as Google Classroom, Weeblys and blogs allow teachers to think differently about homework, how it is set and how students demonstrate they have completed their homework. Online collaborative tasks may also be set for students to engage with at home. Consideration must be also given to students who do not have access to technology.

Parents wishing to provide additional assistance for students with additional learning needs at home can negotiate this with teachers on an individual basis.

Policy Revision

This policy has been revised following consultation with the school community through annual surveys in 2014. A review of research into the effectiveness of homework has strongly informed the revision of this policy. This policy will be monitored and evaluated over time in light of the impact on student learning and research based evidence.