MASCOT PUBLIC SCHOOL
2014 HOMEWORK POLICY
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Rationale

Mascot Public School’s Homework Policy is in line with the NSW DEC’s Homework Policy (August 2000).

This policy has been created after consultation between staff, parents and the community through staff meetings, surveys and School Council and P&C meetings.

Please read the contents with your child and discuss this policy and both the school’s and your expectations. If you have any questions, please see your child’s teacher in the first instance.

Homework allows for practising, extending and consolidating of work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and continues to develop a range of skills in identifying and using information sources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.

HELEN EMPACHER
Principal
Guidelines

1. Homework is not meant to, and indeed should, not, occupy the majority of a child’s time away from the school.

2. While homework is an important component of the teaching and learning process, schools recognise that it is important for students to have time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

3. Homework is set for students, not parents/carers. Parents/carers should be interested and cooperative but their role should be to provide time, space, materials and resources (eg, a desk, access to a computer etc.) and support, if age appropriate.

4. It is the responsibility of students to submit their homework to the best of their ability, completed and on time, to the appropriate teacher. Parents/carers will be informed if this does not regularly occur.

Homework Is More Beneficial When:

- Teachers set suitable amounts of homework which is varied and at an appropriate level, considering the age, developmental stage and capabilities of students.
- It takes into account students’ home responsibilities and extracurricular activities such as sport and clubs.
- It is marked promptly and correctly, and instructive feedback is provided by teachers.

What, When and How Much?

Homework will be given on Monday of the odd week and collected the following Wednesday (on the even week). For example, homework will be given on Monday of Week 1 and should be returned on Wednesday of Week 2.

For students on extended leave, it is suggested that (if appropriate) they read daily, keep a diary and learn about their holiday environment so they are prepared to share their experiences with their class.

Homework will vary according to the grade level of the student. Approximate times for concentrated daily effort could be:

- Kindergarten: No formal homework but cooperative reading with parents is recommended in the early part of the school year.
- Years 1 and 2: Up to 15 to 20 mins
- Years 3 to 6: Up to 30 to 40 mins

What Will Homework Consist Of?

Kindergarten to Year 6

All activities, at home or in play, can assist students in developing a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. It is also
recommended that self-directed play in unstructured time is vitally important. Literacy and numeracy concepts can be introduced and consolidated in many family activities including:

- Shopping
- Preparation of food
- Listening to stories, learning songs and nursery rhymes
- Conversations about what is happening in school
- Interactive video and computer programs
- Reading
- Library borrowing
- Family outings
- Collecting items
- Board and card games

Although most homework is likely to be in the areas of English and mathematics, it could be set across all areas of the curriculum. As students progress, they increasingly work independently on their homework but it is important that teachers continue to provide guidance and assistance particularly in the development of study and research skills.

**EALD (English as an Additional Language/Dialect)**

Initially, New Arrival students will have limited homework because Early Beginning Phase lessons focus mainly on oral language acquisition. Beginning and Emergent Phase students will require a modified homework program until their English language acquisition allows them to complete set tasks with confidence and understanding. Homework will give students the opportunity to practise language structures encountered in the classroom.

**Reading Recovery**

If a student is involved in Reading Recovery, they are given nightly home reading activities to reinforce reading and writing activities completed in their intensive reading class. This homework takes priority over all other homework. Other homework should only be completed if time allows.