



Homework Procedures

Rationale

The primary goal of Smithfield Public School's homework procedures is to provide flexibility and support for students and their families. We recognise the diverse needs and schedules of our students, and as such, completing weekly homework tasks is optional.

In recent years, the evidence about homework suggests that at the primary school level it has limited benefit to a student's academic performance. Engaging in afterschool activities such as relaxation, exercise, extracurricular activities and spending quality time with family members fosters a holistic approach to personal growth by providing opportunities for children to explore their interests, develop communication skills and build stronger social connections. It may also help in improving physical health and wellbeing. However, what homework can promote is good work habits and consolidation of content already learned in class. It can also build relationships between home and school and pave the way to students being independent autonomous learners.

Opt-in Procedures

Parents/carers have the choice as to whether their child/ren completes weekly homework tasks. At the beginning of each school year parents/carers will be provided with written communication outlining the school's homework procedures. Each year, parents/carers opting to have their child complete homework tasks are required to return a signed permission slip to the classroom teacher.

Expected Reading at Home

Irrespective of whether parents opt-in or out of homework tasks, reading every day at home is expected for all students. Reading each day for 20 - 30 minutes helps language development, vocabulary acquisition and contributes to improved fluency and comprehension. Reading may include reading independently or being read to. Students are encouraged to regularly borrow books from the school library during weekly library lessons and some students may be provided with a structured home reading program. Students are rewarded for reading at home through the 100 Nights of Reading program.

Homework Task Guidelines

- Homework is planned at a grade level and consolidates learning previously covered in class.
- Homework tasks will include English and Mathematics activities and may include learning from other curriculum areas such as Science and History depending on age.
- Tasks will be appropriate for student age and ability levels.
- Teachers will provide timely and relevant feedback on learning.
- Teachers are not expected to provide students with additional homework beyond what is set for the stage.
- Parents should meet with the class teacher if their child experiences difficulty in completing their homework.

Daily time spent completing homework tasks should not exceed the following:

Stage 2 and 3 - 30 minutes

Stage 1 - 15 minutes

Kindergarten In line with Department of Education policy, Kindergarten students should not complete formal homework tasks beyond expected reading and sight word practice

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