



KURMOND PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Homework Policy

Homework:

- ✚ is a valuable part of learning
- ✚ allows for practising, extending and consolidation of work done in class
- ✚ provides training for students in planning and organising time
- ✚ develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources
- ✚ establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their lives
- ✚ strengthens home-school links
- ✚ reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education
- ✚ provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of children
- ✚ challenges and extends gifted and talented children

Homework is beneficial when:

- ✚ it reinforces and extends classwork and consolidates basic skills and knowledge
- ✚ it is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the student's motivation
- ✚ parents or caregivers are involved in the formulation and implementation of the school's homework policy
- ✚ students take responsibility for their homework, supported by their parents or caregivers
- ✚ it is well coordinated and teacher expectations are well communicated
- ✚ it is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study
- ✚ teachers set suitable amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, stage of schooling and capabilities of students
- ✚ it takes into account students' home responsibilities and extracurricular activities such as clubs, sport and part-time employment
- ✚ it is marked promptly and accurately
- ✚ feedback and follow-up are provided regularly to students
- ✚ it develops and extends the core learning skills of inquiry and independent study.

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
- ✚ assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
- ✚ 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
- ✚ ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy
- ✚ providing quality homework activities related to classwork
- ✚ 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, as far as possible, competing home obligations and extracurricular activities and homework set by other teachers
- ✚ marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers
- ✚ alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework.

Student can help by:

- ✚ being aware of the importance of homework
- ✚ being aware of their school's homework policy
- ✚ completing homework within the given time frame
- ✚ alerting parents or caregivers to homework expectations
- ✚ seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- ✚ showing their homework to their parents or caregivers (this is perhaps not as important in senior years)
- ✚ ensuring homework is of a high standard
- ✚ organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines

(Department of Education and Training Homework Policy August 2000)

Guidelines to Homework for Kurmond Public School

In line with Department of Education and Training guidelines Kurmond Public School supports and encourages the regular completion of homework to support classroom learning. The following guidelines were implemented in February 2003 after consultation with the school community. This policy is reviewed and ratified annually.

Homework will be set by teachers for 3 to 4 nights each week, with homework usually given to children on a Monday to be handed back in to the teacher on the Thursday or Friday. Teachers will send home individualised instructions of their requirements early in the year.

Homework will usually include some of the following activities – spelling, maths, reading (home readers for younger children, novels for older children), writing and research projects.

Homework completion times vary for each stage. These are a guide to how much time may be spent on homework each night. Parents may decide to split the time into more user friendly groups (e.g. written work for a period of time then reading just before bedtime).

Stage 1 Kindergarten - to commence during Term 1 –up to a maximum of 20 minutes per night
Years 1 and 2 - up to a maximum of 20 minutes per night

Stage 2 Years 3 and 4 - up to a maximum of 30 minutes per night

Stage 3 Years 5 and 6 - up to a maximum of 40 minutes per night

Teachers will send home a note to inform parents if their child is not regularly completing or handing in the set homework at the appropriate time. If a child continually fails to complete or hand in homework parents should request a meeting with the class teacher to help devise strategies to encourage their child to complete homework regularly.

Sometimes it may not be possible for a child to complete the set homework. If this does occur, parents should write a short note on the bottom of the homework or a piece of paper explaining the situation.

If a child is spending more time on the homework than is recommended or is reluctant to complete homework, parents are advised to make an appointment to speak with the child's teacher.