

Homework Policy

Purpose

At Kingsville Primary School, we believe that children learn in many different ways, both at school and at home. Research indicates that, in the primary years, homework has limited impact on academic achievement when compared with high-quality classroom instruction. Instead, time spent reading, talking, playing, exploring interests and participating in family and community life provides significant benefits for children's learning and wellbeing.

Our approach to homework aims to:

- foster a love of reading and learning
- encourage curiosity and independent thinking
- strengthen partnerships between home and school
- provide opportunities for students to practise and consolidate learning where appropriate
- support students to develop positive routines and organisational skills in the upper primary years.

Homework should never create unnecessary stress or interfere with students' wellbeing, family time, cultural commitments, recreation or adequate sleep.

Policy

Homework at Kingsville Primary School is purposeful, flexible and developmentally appropriate.

Homework will:

- support learning that has already occurred in the classroom rather than introduce new concepts
- be achievable without extensive adult teaching or support
- be meaningful and appropriate to each student's age and stage of development
- encourage students to read regularly and engage with their interests
- recognise that students have diverse home circumstances and access to resources
- be balanced with extracurricular activities, family responsibilities and opportunities for play.

Reading remains the most valuable homework activity throughout primary school. Families are encouraged to read with, listen to, or discuss books with their children every day.

Homework Expectations

Foundation to Year 2

Formal homework is not routinely set.

Students are encouraged to:

- read or be read to every day
- practise recognising letters, sounds or high-frequency words where appropriate
- engage in conversations, games and everyday experiences that develop language, numeracy and curiosity.

Teachers may occasionally suggest optional activities that reinforce classroom learning.

Years 3 and 4

Students are encouraged to:

- read independently each day
- practise key skills when appropriate
- complete occasional short learning tasks that reinforce classroom learning.

Homework should generally require no more than approximately 20 minutes on days when it is set, including reading.

Years 5 and 6

Students are encouraged to:

- read regularly
- practise skills that support classroom learning
- complete occasional tasks that encourage organisation, responsibility and independent learning
- gradually develop habits that will support a successful transition to secondary school.

Homework should generally require no more than approximately 30 minutes on days when it is set (Monday – Thursday), including reading.

Homework will not normally be set during weekends or school holidays, although students are encouraged to continue reading and pursuing their own interests.

Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers will:

- ensure homework is purposeful and linked to classroom learning
- communicate homework expectations clearly
- sight that homework has been completed, but not give grades or mark the submission
- not use homework as punishment or as a consequence for incomplete classwork.

Parents and Carers are encouraged to:

- support regular reading at home

- provide encouragement and establish positive routines where possible
- communicate with teachers if homework is causing significant stress or difficulty
- celebrate effort and learning rather than focusing solely on completion.

Students are encouraged to:

- develop routines that support independent learning
- complete agreed homework to the best of their ability
- seek assistance from their teacher if they are finding homework difficult
- continue reading and exploring personal interests outside of school.

Individual Needs

Kingsville Primary School recognises that students have diverse learning needs, family circumstances and commitments outside school.

Teachers may modify homework expectations where appropriate. Families are encouraged to discuss any concerns with their child's teacher so that suitable adjustments can be made.

No student will be disadvantaged because they are unable to complete homework due to circumstances beyond their control.

Review

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's regular policy review cycle to ensure it continues to reflect current educational research and best practice.