



Seaham Public School Homework Policy



Our School Homework Policy

Homework is defined as any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals. Students will also participate in a range of activities and have diverse experiences outside of school hours that may enhance their learning. Experiences and activities at home that help to create a rich learning environment for children are to be encouraged.

Our Seaham Public School homework policy has been developed in consultation with key school community stakeholders including teachers, parents, caregivers and students.

Rationale

Our community feels that homework is important because it reinforces work done at school and it prepares them for the future. Our students enjoy and understand homework including reading, project based and online learning. Most of our students complete homework and hand it in on time. Our staff encourage parents and caregivers to support their child in the completion of their homework independently. Teachers see the value of online learning which can supplement class assessment data and actively promote the love of reading which helps to create lifelong learners.

The policy team, which includes parent representatives and staff members recognised that research was inconclusive in determining if homework raised student achievement. The majority of parents surveyed saw value in homework with reasons including 'parents can see progress and weaknesses', 'parents need to know what students are learning about' and it 'helps me to help them'. There was also a number of responses that reinforced that homework can, at times, have a negative impact on the family. These responses included that 'after school should be family and extra-curricular time', children need 'time to play' and homework 'creates tension and isn't needed'. A strong theme that was evident through responses from staff, students and parents was that reading was extremely important and should be a strong component in weekly homework tasks across all stages.

Policy Statement

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

[NSW Department of Education Homework Policy](#) (Last Updated 10/01/2017)

Our aim is to create a policy that reflects our school community's view on homework and recognises that all family situations are different.

Our school encourages independent learning. Our teachers will set formal homework and encourage and recommend additional work if required.

Parents who wish to 'opt out' of formal homework are encouraged to discuss this with their child's class teacher.

Implementation

Homework for students in K – 2 has a greater emphasis on teacher facilitated activities which reinforce concepts taught in class. Homework tasks for students in years 3 – 6 are focused more on independent, research based projects and activities. From year 1 there is also opportunity to include online learning tasks as part of weekly routine.

The following is a guide that outlines typical homework activities for each stage at Seaham Public School.

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) and Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

Weekly homework sheet which includes English and mathematics activities that reinforce concepts taught in class. Home reading is encouraged every night and books returned on completion. Online programs introduced and can include mathematics programs such as 'Prodigy' and literacy programs including 'Reading Eggs'

Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) and Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6)

There is no formal weekly homework given however project and research tasks occur based around topics covered at school. Students have access to online spelling, reading and comprehension tasks involving sites such as 'StudyLadder' and 'Reading Eggspress' and mathematics programs through 'Prodigy'. In Stage 3 homework booklets are offered to those students who prefer more formal weekly tasks.

Reading is encouraged by all staff. Parents, through survey responses, have indicated that consistent reading is valued and supported in our Seaham community. During term 4, 2019 Stage 2 will trial a reading app that can register and track books read. Stage 3 will be utilising the Premier's Reading Challenge to encourage reading and register books they have completed.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Homework Policy is monitored by the Seaham School policy team. Feedback from staff, students and parents will be discussed at staff, parent and executive meetings as issues arise. As well the policy will be reviewed by school staff annually for updating through parent and staff surveys.

Craig Partridge

Principal Seaham Public School