

FAWKNER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homework Policy 2016

Rationale:

In reviewing our Homework Policy at Fawkner Primary, we have consulted teachers and parents. Our goal is to do what is best for the students and their families.

Ideally we would like every child to be able to complete some reading at home and some other work that may help them with their schoolwork. However we appreciate that every child is different, every family is different and everyone's circumstances are different. The school understands that some children thoroughly enjoy doing extra work at home, while others have other interests that mean they struggle to complete extra work. Therefore we feel that the amount of homework done at home by any child is a decision for the family.

We also believe that all the children work very hard at school, and that some children will have lots of energy and enthusiasm to do more work, while others will need a rest from school work to re-charge their batteries. Others will just feel uncomfortable doing extra work. The school understands that each child's parents know their child and their home circumstances best and therefore the parents know how much homework is right for their child.

Homework will be provided by teachers to support families who wish to work with their children at home. However it is not compulsory. If a child doesn't complete any or all of the homework given to them that is fine. Whatever homework a child does will be corrected and feedback given to your child.

If homework is not done, children will not be treated any differently. They will not be punished, they will not be kept in at playtimes to do it and they will not be made to feel they are disappointing their teachers.

We also recognise that when children begin secondary school they are likely to be given an increased amount of homework, and we believe that part of our role is to help the children prepare for this increase in home workload.

The school believes that it is not part of our role to tell parents what they should do at home, but rather we should work together to help each child achieve their best and to be ready for the next phase of their education. At the beginning of each year teachers and parents are asked to agree on homework requirements at the first Parent Teacher meeting, usually held in March.

Purpose:

- To develop a policy that reflects current research findings and the needs of the school community
- To clearly define the expectations at all levels of the school
- To enable parents to participate in the educational process
- To recognise the need for a balance of educational, cultural, family and recreational activities.

Key Statements:

- Homework expectations should be consistent across classes of the same year levels.
- Homework should be relevant and reflect the child's developmental and learning stages.
- Homework is not compulsory and does not count towards reporting.

- Feedback on homework should be provided by teachers as soon as possible.
- Parents should be informed of homework expectations at the start of each year.
- Teachers will not punish students nor detain them during playtimes for not completing homework.
- Homework will generally not be set on weekends and holidays.

Content: Homework will generally consist of:

Foundation	Years 1 & 2	Years 3 & 4	Years 5 & 6
No more than 30 minutes total per day	No more than 30 minutes total per day	No more than 30 min total per day	No more than 45 minutes total per day
Home Reading	Home Reading	Home Reading	Home Reading
Foundation Bag – literacy & numeracy activities – taken home by students in turns	English or Literacy Bag	Word Study	Word Study
	Maths or Numeracy Bag	Maths* and/or Topic-based task	Maths*
			Topic-based task (as required)

*Where online tasks are set (e.g Mathletics), suitable alternatives will be set for children without online access.

Types of Homework

Practice exercises such as

- reading for pleasure
- practising spelling words
- practising Maths skills that have been taught in class

Preparation for learning in class such as

- collecting newspaper articles about a topic
- researching topics for class work e.g. family survey
- revising information about a current topic.

Extension tasks such as

- writing a book review
- researching local news
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the School's three-year review cycle.

This policy was ratified by School Council on Wednesday July 13