

Homework Questions Answered.....

It's that time again, a new year, a new grade, a new teacher and a new homework sheet! I've had many questions over the last few weeks about homework, so I've drawn on the DEC Homework policy to answer some of your concerns and address some of the issues that you may be facing. Firstly, let me say that the DEC is reviewing its Homework Policy as we speak, but for now, I hope that this article assists you with some of your queries.



Purpose Of Homework

Homework 'bridges the gap between learning at school and learning at home' and should therefore be consistent with and connected to the learning experiences being provided in the classroom. As well as emphasising curriculum relevance, school homework should ensure that homework:

- is appropriate for each student's age and ability
- takes into account students' other commitments, such as sport and home responsibilities
- takes into account technology such as email and the Internet so that students without access are not disadvantaged.

Why Is Homework So Important?

Homework reinforces work done in class. It helps develop skills such as research and time management. Homework helps to establish the habits of study, concentration and self discipline. Parents/caregivers have the opportunity to see the progress of their child. Homework provides challenges and stimulus to gifted and talented children.

Three Types Of Homework

1. Practice Exercises help students to remember and practise newly acquired skills - such as memorising mathematical tables, practising spelling words, writing essays and reading for pleasure.
2. Preparatory Homework requires students to source and read background information to prepare them for future lessons on a specific subject - such as reading an article on the Gold Rush in preparation for a lesson in Australian history.
3. Extension Assignments encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Assignments may include writing a book review, researching local news or retrieving items from the Internet.

Homework for Kindergarten-Year 2

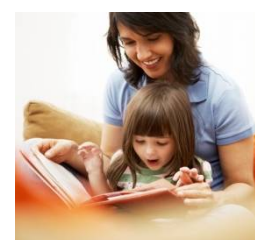
In general, your child will not be expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. However, there are things you can do at home to help your child make the most of what they learn in Kindergarten. Reading to children at home and involving them in family activities will greatly assist the development of their skills in literacy, numeracy and problem solving. In Years 1 and 2 some formal homework is usually set. For example, students may be asked to complete simple computations, to copy letters or words, or to complete an activity sheet.

Homework for Years 3-6

Homework in Years 3-6 will be varied and students will be expected to work more independently. However, teachers will still provide guidance and assistance to students having difficulties completing their homework. Much of the homework will be in English, Mathematics and Human Society and its Environment. However, it can be set across all areas of the curriculum.

What can parents/caregivers do to help?

- Take an active interest in your child's homework.
- Support your child in setting aside time each day for homework.
- Provide a dedicated place for homework and study if possible.
- Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested, and be aware of the amount of homework set.
- Encourage your children to read and take an interest in current events.
- Alert the school to any domestic circumstances or extra curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or your child's approach to homework.



This last point is extremely important and I encourage you to speak with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Counsel. (AP – Student Wellbeing)