

*Homework  
& Internet  
Policy*



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## HOMEWORK POLICY

We believe homework is an out of school learning activity which helps students develop good habits of learning and time management techniques which will support them in lifelong learning. Homework should provide opportunities for children to share their learning with their parents/carers in a positive manner. The importance of family and leisure activities is recognised in the amounts and type of homework that is set.

### PURPOSE

#### *Homework*

- allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class
- provides training for students in planning and organising time
- 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/carers with insights into what is taught in the classroom and the progress of their children

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

#### *Homework is most beneficial when:*

- it reinforces and extends class work and consolidates basic skills and knowledge
- it develops and extends the core learning skills of inquiry and independent study
- it is purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the student's motivation
- parents/carers are involved in the formulation and implementation of the school's homework policy
- students take responsibility for their homework, supported by their parents/carers
- 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 age, stage of schooling and abilities of students
- it takes into account student's home responsibilities and extracurricular activities
- it is marked promptly and accurately
- feedback and follow-up are provided regularly to students
- parents are informed when a student does not do their homework on a regular basis.

## TYPES OF HOMEWORK

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities outside of school.

The three main types of homework are:

Practice exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills including:

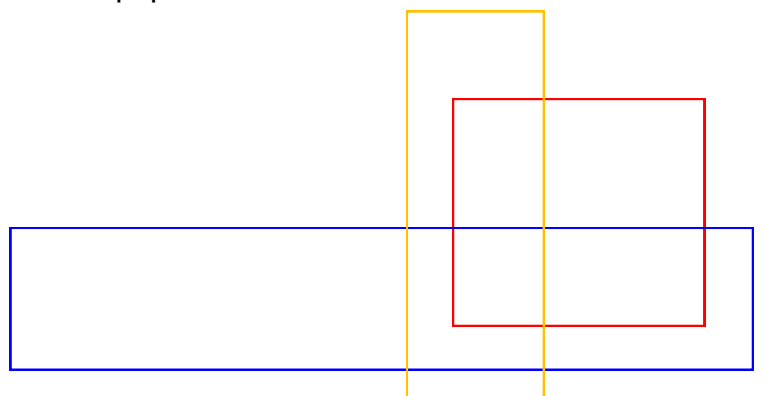
- consolidating exercises e.g. maths, including memorization of tables
- practising for mastery e.g. spelling words
- revising information about a current topic
- reading including reading for pleasure

Preparatory homework – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- background reading
- reading e.g. English text for class unit discussion
- revising information about a current topic
- reading including reading for pleasure

Extension assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, include:

- writing e.g. a book review
- making or designing something e.g. an art work
- investigations e.g. history, local news
- information and retrieval skills e.g. using the home computer to find material on the Internet
- monitoring e.g. advertising in particular newspapers
- using technology to present work.



## Successful Practice for Early Stage One (kindergarten)

Teachers will set a small amount of formal homework each week. All activities at home or in play assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. Self-directed play in unstructured time is important. Language and number concepts can be introduced and consolidated in many family activities, including:

- shopping
- preparation of food
- listening to stories, learning songs and nursery rhymes
- conversations about what is happening at school
- interactive video and computer programs
- reading
- library borrowing
- family outings
- collecting items

Time spent on homework should generally not exceed 30 minutes per week, including home reading and maths. Homework will be given out on Monday and returned on Friday. No maths group homework will be set.

## Successful Practice for Stage One (Years One and Two)

In addition to the types of homework provided for Early Stage One, a small amount of formal homework is set each week covering aspects of:

- reading
- spelling
- writing
- mathematics

### YEAR ONE:

Time spent on homework should generally not exceed 20 minutes per night including home reading, spelling and writing. Homework will be usually given out on Monday and returned on Friday. Maths group homework when set, will not exceed one page and will be given out on Wednesday and returned the following Wednesday.

### YEAR TWO:

Time spent on homework should generally not exceed 20 to 30 minutes per night including home reading, spelling and writing. Maths group homework when set, will not exceed one sheet and will be given out on Wednesday and returned the following Wednesday.

## Successful Practice for Stage Two (Years Three and Four)

Formal homework is generally set each week covering aspects of literacy and numeracy. On occasions homework will be set covering HSIE and Science and Technology

### YEARS THREE AND FOUR:

Time spent on homework should generally not exceed 35 minutes per night. Homework will be given out on Monday and returned on Friday. This homework usually includes independent reading, spelling and maths, including space and measurement. On some occasions, class work that is unfinished will need to be completed over a shorter time period. Maths group teachers will set homework that is an appropriate drill or practice activity for their group. In general, this will be given out on Monday to be returned on Wednesday of the same week. Projects/research tasks will be allocated more than one week to complete.

## Successful Practice for Stage Three (Years Five and Six)

Time spent on homework should generally not exceed 40 minutes per night. Homework will be given out on Monday and returned on a Thursday or Friday (depending upon the class teacher's requirements). Generally, incomplete class work will need to be completed as homework. Maths group teachers will set homework that is an appropriate drill or practice activity for their group. Individual maths group teachers will set organisational requirements indicating when homework is given out and returned to school. Independent research assignments will be set and a specified due date will be indicated with the task description.

### GUIDELINES

*Parents/carers 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 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 teacher 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.

*Expectations of students:*

- being aware of the importance of homework
- being aware of their school's homework policy
- completing homework within the given time frame
- alerting parents/carers to homework expectations
- seeking assistance from teacher and parents/carers
- showing their homework to their parents/carers
- ensuring homework is of a high standard
- organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines

*Teachers can help by:*

- explaining to students and their parents/carers the purpose and benefits of homework
- ensuring students and parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- providing quality homework activities related to class work
- 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, 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/carers
- alerting parents/carers of any development problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework.



# PEAKHURST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Bonds Road, Peakhurst NSW 2210  
Phone: 9153 9157 Fax: 9584 2068