



DERINYA HOMEWORK POLICY

1. RATIONALE

- The DEECD (Department of Education and Early Childhood Development) mandates that primary schools set homework. As a result – Derinya sets homework to compliment and reinforce student learning. Homework will be broken into two clearly defined categories homereading and hometasks.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of our homework policy are consistent from prep through to grade 6. The objectives of our policy are to:

- reinforce concepts taught in the classroom
- develop student responsibility for their own learning
- develop an enthusiasm for learning
- develop a positive home school relationship
- ensure all children engage in regular home reading
- provide relevant and meaningful hometasks.
- provide an incrementally graduated homework program that develops over the course of a students primary education.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.1 TIME EXPECTATIONS

Prep

- 5 x 20 minute homereading blocks.
- Total = 100 minutes a week recommended.

Grade 3-4

- 5 x 20 minute homereading blocks.
- 1 x 40 minute hometask.
- Total = 140 minutes a week.

Grade 1-2

- 5 x 20 minute homereading blocks.
- 1 x 20 minute hometask.
- Total = 120 minutes a week.

Grade 5-6

- 5 x 20 minute homereading blocks.
- 1 x 60 minute hometask.
- Total = 160 minutes a week.

3.2 Homereading

- Homereading will be supported by the PM benchmark borrowing program. When a student achieves reading level 30 they will graduate to the Lexiles reading program. Teachers from grade 3 -6 have the discretion to move students who haven't achieved level 30 onto the Lexiles program if they believe it is in the students' best interests.
- Teachers will provide a blanket reading intention in the homework book for each student at the beginning of each year.
- Homereading should be supported by parents at all grade levels. Strategies to support homereading will differ from year to year and will be outlined in the homereading learning intention.

3.3 Hometasks

- All hometasks will be accompanied by a learning intention. The LI (learning intention) will be completed in student friendly language. eg. "LI: The focus for this task is to practise the headphones rule for spelling" "LI: To use google or yahookids to research on the net" "LI: To understand how to add two-digit numbers."
- Home-tasks will not be set for Prep students.
- Students in Grades 1 – 6 will have a hometask distributed every Tuesday to be returned the following Monday. This provides busy families with the opportunity to complete the hometask over the weekend if they so choose.

- Hometasks will be linked to differing curriculum areas dependent on teaching focuses within the classroom.
- Teachers will ensure a diverse range of curriculum areas receive coverage in the hometask.
- Teachers will keep a checklist of completed hometasks and reading. Teachers will use the end of semester reports and student conferences to provide feedback in relation to homework.
- The teacher will provide a weekly breakdown of time requirements when a project or extended assignment is allocated to students.
- Hometasks will be distributed as a paper copy or via internet to all.

3.4 Completion of Homework

- All students will be encouraged take responsibility for their homework.
- Whilst teachers encourage homework they will not take responsibility for its completion.
- No student will be kept in from recess or lunch breaks over homework. The school believes that school level punishment delivered in relation to homework is counter productive to the objectives set out above.
- Teachers will use positive reinforcement strategies to encourage homework completion. eg. students who consistently complete homework will have the opportunity to participate in privilege activities
- Parents are requested to sight and sign homework each week. We encourage parents to provide positive feedback for their child.
- Parents will receive email or paper notification if their child fails to complete the assigned homework.
- Parents are encouraged to supervise and support their child in the completion of hometasks, but not to do the work for the child.
- Homework remains part of our reporting process.
- Teachers will sight completed homework and provide feedback in relation to the learning intention. Feedback could include such things as stickers, short comments related to the learning intention, teacher signatures and appropriate positive reinforcement, certificates or marked rubrics.

3.5 Other

- Specialist teachers will consult with classroom teachers before allocating homework.
- Homework proformas are supplied to all teams to support the development of hometasks.

4.0 RESOURCES

- Lexiles website
- Extending your child – homework page attached to the Derinya website
- School library
- Classroom teacher
- other web based programs eg. Lexia

5.0 EVALUATION

- The homework policy will be evaluated through staff survey and parent feedback forums.
- Full review in 3 years.

6.0 RESPONSIBILITY

This policy is responsibility of the school curriculum committee and the education sub-committee.

Staff Approved	2013
School Council Approved	May 2014
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