POLICY FOR HOMEWORK

Purpose:
Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practicing, 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.

Aims:
- To develop sound working habits in each student
- To reinforce concepts learned at school
- To provide an opportunity for parents/caregivers to participate in their child’s learning
- To support students in the development of skills, knowledge and concepts according to their own stage of development

Guidelines:
- In building up a home study pattern it is important that students make maximum use of limited time. Homework is not meant to, and indeed should not occupy the majority of a child’s time away from the school.
- Homework should not be an onerous task that could lead to negative attitudes. Rather, it should enable children to achieve success, gain self-esteem and the praise of parents/caregivers.
- Homework is set for children not adults. Parents should be interested and co-operative, their role being to provide time, space, materials and resources, for example a computer.
- If parents wish to exclude their child from any particular homework task, they are asked to initial and sign the task or speak directly to the class teacher.
- Teachers set homework according to our school policy. However it is the parents’ responsibility to see that the homework is completed.
- It is the responsibility of students to submit their homework, completed & on time, to the appropriate teacher.
- Rewarding students for completed homework will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Rewards are to focus on the positive and are to be used as encouragement for other students who may not be completing homework. Rewards may include such things as: sticker charts, class party, classroom privileges, canteen vouchers.
- Parents are requested to supervise their child’s work but homework should not be a source of conflict between parent and child. Any concerns relating to homework should be addressed to the class teacher.
- While homework is an important component of the teaching and learning process, our school recognises that it is important for students to have time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school.
Homework Procedures:
• No set homework will be given in the first and last week of each term.
• Homework will vary according to the grade level of the student and the individual class content covered.
• At times teachers may set other relevant tasks.
• Occasionally students may be unfamiliar with some content. If this occurs please indicate with a comment on the homework sheet and or contact with the class teacher.
• Homework may be marked in the class with student involvement.
• Students on extended leave will not be given formal individualised homework. It is suggested that if appropriate they read daily, keep a diary and learn about their holiday environment.
• No extension homework will be provided. It is recommended that students engage in additional home reading.

Suggested homework activities that really make a difference:
• Reading books with parents/caregivers or older family members
• Quiet reading before lights-out
• Board games, activities and hobbies
• Regular visits to local library
• Outings to places of social and historic or natural interest

Kindergarten
Generally, teachers will not set formal homework in Kindergarten however will provide regular home reading and sight word and number practice. All activities at home or in play can assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills. Reading to children at home, learning sight words and involving them in family activities will greatly assist the development of their skills in literacy, numeracy and problem solving.

Years 1 – 2
Homework involves nightly home reading. Students may also be given a weekly/fortnightly activity sheet consisting of literacy and numeracy activities.

Years 3 – 6
Homework in Years 3-6 will be varied and students will be expected to work more independently. Homework will mostly consist of home reading, learning of basic spelling lists and literacy activity sheets, learning/practicing tables, mental arithmetic, topic research, writing activities, preparation of speeches. Most of the homework will be in the areas of English, Mathematics and Human Society and its Environment. However, it can be set across all areas of the curriculum.

RESPONSIBILITIES
Each teacher’s homework commitment is to:
• Set homework to consolidate students’ current knowledge and skills
• Monitor homework completion
• Ensure students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed.
• Promptly and accurately mark teacher-set homework.

Parents/ Carers homework commitment is to:
• Support students in completing homework;
• Provide, if possible, a designated place and desk for homework and study
• Notify the teacher in writing if homework cannot be completed
• Assist teachers to monitor homework
• Communicate with teachers any concerns regarding homework completion.