**EAST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL**

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**HOMEWORK**

**Policy**

**Compiled by**

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**HOMEWORK POLICY**

**Rationale:**

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Homework also provides an opportunity for parents to participate in their child’s education and extends and complements the partnership between school and home.

While homework is an important component of the teaching and learning process, we acknowledge that it is important for student to have time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

**Aim:**

The aim of this policy is to ensure that:

* Homework is a rewarding, positive experience for students, teachers and families.
* A whole-school approach to homework is applied.

**Definition:**

Homework refers to any activities that students are asked to complete outside of school hours.

There are three main types of homework:

1. Practice exercises – providing the opportunity to apply new knowledge or review, revise and reinforce skill. For example, spelling, times tables, reading for pleasure, writing etc.
2. Preparatory Homework – providing opportunities to gain background information on a unit of study to be better prepared for future lessons. For example background reading, researching topics, collecting items, discussions with family members etc.
3. Extension Assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively including writing, making or designing something, investigating, researching.

**Implementation Guidelines:**

* It is expected that all students will read daily as part of their homework.
* Homework activities will be revision and consolidation of concepts taught in class.
* Homework activities will be consistent across each grade.
* A time frame will be given by the class teacher.
* Homework is not compulsory but it is encouraged.
* Each class will have a reward system for regular application to homework.
* Returned homework will be marked or acknowledged.
* Homework may include an extension component to complement current class work and feedback will be given.
* Parents will be provided with additional suggested activities they can do at home to best support their child’s learning at school.

**Parents can help by:**

* Providing a dedicated place and time for homework and study where possible.
* Encouraging and support their child to fulfil homework requirements.
* Contacting class teachers if there are difficulties.
* Not doing the homework for their child.
* Allowing their child to accept responsibility for their own homework.
* Discussing expectations with their child.
* Providing assistance with the development of time management and organisation skills.

**Teachers can help by**:

* Providing quality homework activities.
* Setting a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to student ability.
* Setting clear expectations, including how the homework will be assessed (if applicable).
* Setting clear and reasonable time frames for completion taking into consideration competing home obligations and extra-curricular activities.
* Giving prompt and constructive feedback to students.
* Clearly communicating the purpose and expectations of all homework.
* Explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time management skills and provide opportunities to practise these strategies through homework.
* Discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child’s homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.
* Setting consistent homework across grade levels.
* Co-ordination between classroom and specialist teachers to avoid overlap.

**Students can help by:**

* Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames.
* Advising parents/caregivers of homework expectations.
* Seeking assistance from teachers or parents when difficulties arise.
* Trying to do their best work.
* Organising and using time well to manage home/family obligations and participating in extra-curricular activities
* Following up on comments made by teachers.

**Grade level requirements:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade Level** | **Suggested time per week** | **Suggested types of activities** |
| Kindergarten | 10 minutes per day, four times per week | Minimal formal homework Regular home reading including being read to Revising sight words Family activities such as shopping, food preparation, visiting a library |
| 1 and 2 | 15 minutes per day, four times per week | Some formal homework Regular home readingOccasional integrated studies- related tasks such as interviewing, writing and drawing |
| 3 and 4 | 20 minutes per day, four times per week, up to 1 ½hours per week | Reading, times tables, spelling activities, writing, completion of class work (if required) |
| 5 and 6 | 30 minutes per day, up to two hours per week | Reading, times tables, writing, projects or investigations, completion of class work (if required) |

**Links:**

NSW Department of Education Homework Policy Guidelines

**Types of Homework**:

**Practice exercises -** let students apply knowledge or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills. Examples of such exercises are memorisation of mathematical tables, practising spelling activities, essay writing and reading for pleasure.

**Preparatory homework -** where students gain background information on a unit of study to better prepare them for future lessons, for example, reading or collecting geometric shapes.

**Extension assignments -** encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Assignments might include writing a book review, researching local news or retrieving items from the internet.

At times students will receive homework from Library/RFF/LaST/ESL teachers and will be expected to complete.

# Kindergarten – Year 2

For Kindergarten, teachers will set minimal formal homework. However, all activities at home or in play assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. It should also be remembered that 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

For Years 1 and 2, someformal homework is usually set. For example, students may be asked to complete some simple computations, to copy letters or words, or to complete an activity sheet.

# Years 3 – 6

* Teachers will continue to provide guidance and assistance, particularly in the development of study skills. As students’ progress, they will increasingly work independently on their homework.
* Students will experience different types of homework across all areas of the curriculum.

# Holiday / Travel

* Teachers are not obliged to set formal homework activities. Students may wish to undertake independent work related to holidays.