



# NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

*Learning for Life*

## HOMework GUIDELINES

### RATIONALE

This statement has been developed to ensure that there is a planned and agreed approach to student homework at Newington Public School. The current school population has varied educational, cultural and family values, which influence the attitudes and expectations concerning the amount, type and purpose of homework. The guidelines provide a framework for teachers, students and parents that outlines the expectations and the responsibilities of those involved in the homework process.

### POLICY STATEMENT

Homework refers to any task set by a teacher for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals. These may include:

- **Practice exercises** e.g. memorising mathematical tables, practising spelling and reading
- **Preparatory homework** e.g. library research, surveys
- **Extension assignments** e.g. researching current events, writing a book review

Homework should:

- Help to reinforce the partnership between home and school to support student learning
- Aim to assist in building good work habits and develop research skills
- Reinforce, enrich and extend in-class learning
- Be purposeful, and appropriate to the age and ability level of students
- Include an ongoing focus on spelling, mathematics tables and reading for years 1-6

### IMPLEMENTATION

At the commencement of each year class teachers will communicate the Homework guidelines to parents and carers through stage brochures. The following guidelines recommend the approximate times students should spend on homework tasks.

Stage	Average recommended time (per day) across the week
Kindergarten	5-10 minutes (In general, students are not expected to complete formal homework. Students may be given books to read, as appropriate.)
Stage 1	10-30 minutes
Stage 2	15-30 minutes
Stage 3	20-60 minutes

### CONSIDERATIONS

The school acknowledges that parents/carers may not believe that participating in homework benefits the learning needs of their child. Many students and families also have a range of commitments outside of school hours. For this reason the school will provide options and flexibility to allow for different circumstances.

Parents have the option to request that their child:

- Does not receive homework
- Receives homework, but is not required to hand it in
- Takes part in a modified homework program identified by the parent

If parents choose one of these options they are required to provide written notification, in advance, to the teacher. It will be assumed that in the event that no communication is received from parents/carers the student will be expected to complete homework.

If parents choose to withdraw their child from participating in homework, or request for their child to participate in homework with modifications, it is at their discretion to notify the school in writing if they wish to alter these arrangements during the school year.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **The teacher's role is to:**

- Ensure that homework requirements are clearly communicated to parents
- Ensure homework is relevant, meaningful and grade appropriate
- Provide feedback and encouragement through prompt, regular and positive marking and reviewing of homework
- Provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances including fair and negotiable deadlines
- Discuss with students and parents/carers any developing issues regarding a student's homework

### **The parent's role is to:**

- Provide written communication of any variations to requirements for homework completion to the class teacher
- Establish routines and locations that will assist students to complete all set tasks to the best of their ability
- Promptly communicate concerns or difficulties with homework to the class teacher
- Encourage and support their child to complete their homework

### **The student's role is to:**

- Complete homework to the best of their ability, fulfilling the directions given by the class teacher
- Ask for help or clarification from their teacher or parent if they are unsure of homework content or directions
- Hand in completed work at the specified time

## **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **Research assignment/project work should:**

- Include clear written instructions, such as due dates and required length
- Include a clearly outlined assessment criteria, as appropriate for each stage
- Replace regular homework during the 'project' duration as specified by Team Supervisor
- Only be assigned a maximum of once per term
- Be structured to ensure that it can be completed by the student and the finished product is substantially the work of the student
- Be designed and written to allow for the range of students in the year level
- Provide opportunities for open-ended extension work

## **MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

This draft will be reviewed at the end of 2020

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES**

- NSW Department of Education Homework Policy and Guidelines 2012