

HOMEWORK POLICY

Charlestown Public School

Endorsed by Staff and School Council: March 2018

Next Review: March 2020

PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, 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. However, schools and parents should recognise that it is important for students to also participate in leisure activities outside of school.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

Schools, in consultation with their communities, are required to develop a school homework policy relevant to the needs of their students. School homework policies must be communicated to staff, students, parents and caregivers, particularly at the time of student enrolment. Homework will be educationally beneficial and will meet the realistic expectations of students, teachers, parents and caregivers.

The three main types of homework are:

- Practice exercises
- Preparatory homework
- Extension assignments

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

Approximate homework times per day, Monday to Thursday, are as follows:

Early Stage 1: 10mins.

Stage 1: 10 to 20 mins.

Stage 2: 15 to 20mins.

Stage 3: 20-30mins.

Homework is generally not given on weekends or holidays. Homework will come from a range of activities that may include completion of work, additional formal bookwork and

tasks, reading, research, observation and data collection, designing and making as well as practising and on-line activities.

Examples:

- Reading - oral, silent, comprehension
- Spelling - learning, writing, activities including computer activities
- English - including poetry
- Maths including on-line activities (eg study ladder, etc)
- Relevant research activities
- Collecting pictures, cuttings
- Preparation of short speeches

The class teacher will also collaborate with other teachers in the school if project work is set in other Key Learning Areas.

EXPECTATIONS

Parents and caregivers 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 an 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 teachers any concerns about the homework and their children's approach to the homework. Concerns may relate to domestic considerations or extra-curricula activities.

Teachers can help by:

- explaining to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework
- ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy
- providing quality homework activities related to class work
- setting a suitable amount of relevant homework
- ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers

- alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework.

Students can help by:

- being aware of the importance of homework
- being aware of their school's homework policy
- completing homework within the given time frame
- alerting parents or caregivers to homework expectations
- seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- showing their homework to their parents or caregivers
- ensuring homework is of a high standard
- organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.

Homework requirements will be outlined in Parent-Teacher meetings at the start of each year.

Consequences for Yrs 4-6:

At the request of students, consequences for students failing to hand in or complete their homework have been put in place:

At the teacher's discretion a student may be kept in at lunchtime to complete their homework if it has not been returned three weeks in a row, or if the teacher sees a pattern of students not returning their homework, they may be kept in to complete it.