



# Penrith South Public School

## Homework Policy

### School Vision

That every child's journey at Penrith South is one with purpose, high expectations, dignity and options.

### Statement of Purpose

The homework policy at Penrith South Public School meets the requirements of the Department of Education's Homework Policy.

It is acknowledged that students will also participate in a range of activities and have diverse experiences outside of school hours that may enhance their learning. Experiences and activities at home that help create a rich learning environment are encouraged. These activities however are not considered as homework as they aren't assigned by a teacher.

This policy takes into consideration current research, student needs and has been developed in consultation with the school community including teachers, parents/caregivers and students. The policy is communicated to caregivers at the time of enrolment.

### Research

Research summarised from John Hattie's work (*Visible Learning For Teachers, Maximising Impact On Learning 2012*) states that any intervention to be considered worthwhile needs to show an improvement in student learning of at least an average gain that is an effect size of at least 0.4. Homework in the primary years is scored at **0.29**.

### Considerations

#### Quality

Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:

- appropriate for each student's age and ability
- relevant to each student's needs
- purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- varied and challenging, but achievable
- built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.

Homework tasks should be assigned by teachers with a specific, explicit learning purpose. On completion, teachers should acknowledge student effort and provide feedback related to student learning.

## Manageability

The quantity of homework needs to be manageable so that teachers can ensure quality, and can provide feedback to students on completion.

Homework that is manageable for students will:

- be age appropriate
- consider students' outside of school hours commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition, part-time employment and home responsibilities
- take into account students' access to resources and technology beyond school
- be clearly communicated to students
- provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances.

## Communication

Communication and the provision of clear information between teachers, parents/caregivers and students is necessary for homework to be effective for students. School and community needs have been considered when determining what communication approaches and processes will be most effective for parents/caregivers, students and teachers.

The school's Homework Policy is to be made available to the school community through the school's website and at the time of enrolment.

Parents/caregivers of students experiencing difficulties completing homework can be confident that these concerns can be discussed with the teacher, and that guidance and assistance will be provided.

## Age Specific Considerations

In general,

### Kindergarten

Students are not expected to do any formal homework in kindergarten. They may participate in the home reading program.

### Years 1 and 2

Home reading, sounds and sight words are set for revision. A project based on content learnt in class will be set **once** per term.

### Years 3-6

Students are expected to participate in home reading. A project based on content learnt in class will be set **twice** per term.

## Students with Disabilities and Learning Difficulties

Homework may be individualised in consultation with parents based on student age and ability. Other factors that impact upon each student's functional ability outside of school hours will be considered.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Principals**

- Develop a Homework Policy, in consultation with their school community.
- Communicate the Homework Policy to staff, students, parents/caregivers.
- Monitor and support teachers in the implementation of the Homework Policy.
- Ensure that homework is consistent with the school's learning goals.
- Support the need for balance between homework and the many other commitments in students' lives.
- Provide mechanisms for teachers and parents/caregivers to communicate about homework.
- Recognise that some parents/caregivers may not agree with the school policy on homework. This may necessitate the development of alternative strategies.

### **Teachers**

- Implement the school's Homework Policy.
- Communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to students and parents/caregivers.
- Provide clear instructions to students including the project marking criteria.
- Ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for students, including home readers.
- Support students having difficulties with homework.
- Acknowledge student effort in completing homework and provide timely feedback on achievement.
- Discuss with students and parent/caregivers any developing issues regarding a student's homework and provide guidance and assistance when ever necessary.
- Discuss homework practices with colleagues.