

Highvale Primary School Policy Statement – Homework

Ratified by School Council: June, 2007

1 Rationale

Homework is a set of tasks prepared by the teacher for students to complete in out-of-school hours. It should reinforce concepts taught during class time and provide students with the opportunity to revise and consolidate. Educational research confirms that:

- carefully constructed homework does have a direct impact on academic achievement.
- positive homework attitudes in the home contribute greatly to performance and success in the classroom.
- students of all abilities can reap the benefits of well-assigned homework.
- where homework is concerned, every student benefits from a successful, supportive partnership between the school, parent and child.

There is now also a recognised need for some changes in the homework set for students. These changes are an attempt to provide more opportunities for students and their parents to interact and communicate, and in the process further add to the development of the students.

2 Aims

- To provide students with the opportunity to consolidate and revise concepts which are taught in class.
- To provide challenges for all children.
- To provide parents with a valuable insight into what is being taught during the day at school.
- To allow students to develop good working habits, including organisational skills and time management, which they can then draw on in secondary school years.
- To provide opportunities for children and parents to spend time together engaging in activities of benefit to both children and parents.

3 Implementation

- The duration of homework will vary depending on the year level of the child. It is understood that many children have numerous after school activities and homework, one small part of the school profile, should not be excessive.

Guidelines are as follow:

Prep, Years One and Two

Home reading is introduced in the first weeks of school and this will continue right through primary school. At year two, spelling and mathematics may be added to your child's home reading.

Years Three and Four

Spelling, mathematics, grammar, revision in various subject areas, extension activities which require students to use previously learnt skills and apply them to

new tasks all begin to emerge at this level. Home reading continues. Homework other than reading should not exceed one hour per week.

Years Five and Six

Activities involving revision, practice, reading and extension work using previously acquired skills continue. Some research or preparation work for assignments, projects, or speeches may be set and can become a fairly regular feature of upper primary homework. Again home reading continues and other homework should not exceed one hour per week.

The student is expected to complete as much homework as possible before approaching an adult or sibling for help. They are expected to produce work that is of an acceptable standard. This refers to level of effort as well as presentation of work. They are expected to organise their time wisely so that homework deadlines are met. Homework will normally be set on a Monday and be due on the Friday of that week.

- Teachers will design homework tasks that relate and support recent class work. They will set homework on a regular basis, appropriate to student ability. Teachers will mark homework each week and be approachable and available if there are concerns from either students or parents.
- Parents are expected to help their child by finding them a quiet, comfortable place, which is conducive to working independently. They can assist by negotiating a regular time each day when homework should be done, and to monitor such distractions as television. Parents are encouraged to support their child with their homework, not do it for them, and to sign all work before it is returned to school. Comments are welcome.
- Generally, there will be no homework, apart from reading and learning of spelling, set on school weeks of less than five full days.
- Unsatisfactory or incomplete homework will be completed during the student's own time at school.
- There will be opportunities for children from Years 3 to 6 to engage in homework of a style that promotes interaction and communication between children and parents. This kind of homework will typically be carried out over a two-week period, and will require parents to engage with their child in the completion of the homework. Activities will include playing a game with their child, reading to their child, having their child "teach" them something they learned at school during the period in question, housework chores, among others.

5. Evaluation

- The success of the homework policy will be evidenced in the setting of regular quality homework by the teacher, completed to an acceptable standard by the student by the due date, signed by the parent and corrected by the teacher.
- Reviews of the homework policy, if found to be unsatisfactory, would be undertaken by the school leadership team in conjunction with the Education Sub-Committee of school council.
- Feedback from parents and students will help determine the effectiveness of the new style of homework set.