



Homework Guidelines

Maroubra Junction Public School

PURPOSE

Homework is defined as any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours and designed to meet specific learning goals. The guidelines of this school are that some learning tasks or experiences will be set for students to complete at home. Tasks will be relevant, meaningful and based on current class work.

REQUIREMENTS

A school's Homework Guidelines should be:

- relevant to the needs of students;
- developed in consultation with key school community stakeholders including teachers, parents/caregivers and students; and,
- communicated to staff, students, parents/caregivers, particularly at the time of enrolment.

In developing their Homework Guidelines, schools should be aware that while the policy itself is compulsory, the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year levels are not.

Tasks will be relevant,
meaningful and based on
current class work.

GUIDELINES

Community expectations about homework are variable, research regarding the value of homework is inconclusive and schools are best placed to make decisions about homework in consultation with their communities.

The school believes:

- reading at home to and with adults, and/or independently, is an essential part of each child's learning development.
- homework that is set out of context or causes stress on families may have a negative influence on a child's attitude towards learning and should be avoided.
- homework tasks or experiences that are diverse, closely related to current class work and inclusive of a range of after-school activities already being carried out by students is more likely to be beneficial.
- homework should consider the demands of contemporary family life and parents should have the *choice of opting out of homework* for their child if they believe it is not beneficial to the child or they feel it is having a negative impact on the child's attitude towards learning. If parents make this choice on behalf of their child, there will be no negative consequence imposed by the school.

IMPLEMENTATION

Kindergarten – Year 2

In kindergarten, students will be given books to read at home and will be asked to prepare a weekly news topic.

In Years 1 and 2, in addition to home reading and preparation of news topics, some formal tasks will be provided. Homework tasks will be provided weekly and will include a weekend.

Years 3-6

Homework will be provided fortnightly and will be based on current class work.

Activities will incorporate literacy and numeracy and some optional activities.

Responsibility of teachers includes:

- providing homework tasks that are consistent across the grade; are appropriate to the student's capabilities and based on current class work.
- informing parents of intended homework programs at the Meet the Teacher Night in Term 1 of each year.
- the provision of clear and adequate expectations.
- correcting and/or evaluating the completed work in an encouraging environment.
- providing students with the opportunity to share their work/celebrate their achievements.

Responsibility of children (where parents opt for their child to do homework) includes:

- taking the learning tasks home, completing them to the best of their ability and returning them to school in the agreed time; and,
- seeking assistance from the teacher where necessary.

Responsibility of parents / guardians includes:

- completing and returning a notification of an intention to opt in either partially or wholly, or opt out of homework.

If opting in....

- supervising and assisting children when needed;
- making arrangements to provide adequate space and time for completion of activities;
- encouraging children to manage time effectively, complete tasks on time and

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manage the balance between recreational and homework activities; and,

- communicating with the classroom teacher when concerns arise.

Evaluation

Teachers will monitor the completion of tasks and indications of parental involvement. Where there is cause for concern, a parent, student and teacher conference will be organised.

Indicators of success will be:

- Greater student positivity about homework;
- Positive parental responses; and,
- Positive impact on students' attitudes towards learning.

Further Information

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Participation in Homework

The school considers reading at home to and with adults, or independently, to be an essential part of each child's learning development. All children are expected to participate in reading at home.

Please complete a separate form for each of your children.

Having considered the school's Homework Guidelines, I wish to make the following choice about the participation of my child (**please tick one statement**):

- I choose to opt out of all homework activities (other than reading) on behalf of my child.
- I choose to have my child do some homework activities depending on their learning needs, level of interest and the availability of time.
- I choose to have my child complete homework as provided by the class teacher. I wish this to be monitored by the teacher and I wish to be informed if homework is not completed consistently.

Please indicate whether your child has access to a computer and the Internet at home to access their work digitally.

- Yes, my child does have access to a computer and the Internet at home
- No, my child does not have access to a computer and the Internet at home.

Name of Child: _____ Class: _____

Name of Parent: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN NOTE TO CLASS TEACHER