



K-6 Homework Policy

“Train a child in the way he should go and when he is older he will not depart from it”
Proverbs 22:9

The primary are an important time in laying foundations as the children prepare for lifelong learning. We believe that the children need to make progressive steps towards being ready for the expectations of high school, tertiary study and their careers. The aim of homework is to provide the discipline of regular study time at the end of a school day. To this end Parkes Christian School teachers will set incremental amounts of homework as the child progresses through the school to assist the child in allocating time for individual study.

Rationale

Homework is set by teachers in our school to achieve the following purposes;

1. To consolidate material covered in class.
2. To instil and develop effective and helpful study habits in students for later years in their education experience.

Homework should not be;

3. Meaningless busy work.
4. Excessive or voluminous so as to interfere with the important role play, interaction at home and extracurricular activities play in the life of a child, which we acknowledge as vitally important contributors to a child's development.
5. Used as an introduction to new or unfamiliar work.

Book Bags & Books

Each child is given a school book bag to protect homework books. Students in Years 1-5 are issued a homework exercise book, which is to be covered with clear, untinted contact or plastic.

Year 6 school students will complete homework tasks in their student KLA workbooks.

Marking:

Homework is marked each time it is handed in, so as to provide valuable feedback to students and their parents.

Consequences for Incomplete Homework

We believe that homework should be an opportunity to expand and revise on work that has been done in class. If homework is not completed, that is seen as a missed opportunity rather than a behaviour that requires a formal consequence.

Special Needs:

Consideration is given to exceptional and special circumstances of students as they arise.

Communicating Homework Policy to Parents

The Homework Policy is communicated to parents at the beginning of the school year via an email to all parents and carers. Teachers will be available to answer questions and discuss the policy with parents as needs arise.

Homework Kindergarten to Year 4:

K -6 Student Diaries:

Student Diaries are used to ensure that effective communication can occur between teachers and parents. Parents are to sign the diary each week night and teachers are to check diaries each week day, signing them at the end of the week and when a parent has communicated to the teacher using the diary.

The Homework Organisation – Kindergarten:

For Kindergarten, homework commences in Week 7 of Term 1. The only exception will be for special events, the last week of the school year or any other week determined by the school Principal.

Homework will consist of:

- Reading Eggs and Mathletics levels set by the teacher each week for the students to complete.
- Home readers that correspond to the letter/ sound students have been learning that week in class.

The Homework Organisation – Years 1 & 2

For Years 1-2 homework commences in Week 4 Term 1. The only exception will be for special events, the last week of the school year or any other week determined by the school Principal.

Homework will consist of:

- Reading Eggs and Mathletics levels set by the teacher each week for the students to complete.
- Spelling list
- Home readers which are recorded every night in the student logue books

The Homework Organisation – Years 3-6:

Setting Homework:

For Years 3-6 homework commences in Week 4 Term 1. The only exception will be for special events, the last week of the school year or any other week determined by the school Principal.

Homework will consist of:

- Reading Eggs and Mathletics levels set by the teacher each week for the students to complete.
- Spelling list and Times Tables
- Home readers or independent novel which are recorded every night in the student diaries for teachers to view progress.

The setting of homework, however, should allow for flexible arrangements, enabling students to plan when to complete their work, so as to compliment other family commitments. That is, homework should not be due the day after it is set. Teachers are to communicate regularly and clearly to students the purpose of the homework they are setting.

Parent requests for additional homework will be dealt with by first listening to parent's reasons for asking, to ascertain whether the current class homework is appropriate. If the homework is considered to be an appropriate amount, the request will be politely refused and the teacher will encourage the parent to focus their children's attention on other equally

important and valid extra-curricular activities.

Homework Projects K-4

Students from Kindergarten to Year 4 are taught project skills from the scope and sequence below.

Marking of Project tasks –

Teachers in years K-4 will provide a written comment to students after they have presented an oral report. For all written projects, teachers will provide feedback through written comments.

Homework Projects K-2

<u>Grade</u>	Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2
<u>Frequency</u>	weekly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly
<u>At home</u>	oral report for news on topic being studied eg My favourite pet animal - link to science unit on animal life cycles	oral report for news on topic being studied e.g. A plant	oral report for news on topic being studied eg Old Days, Old Ways
<u>At school</u>			<p>Informative (related) sentences to be written on topic covered in class and presented in a simple form with illustration.</p> <p>Within the year: one project is pasted on paper and one is</p>
<u>Skills Taught in class</u>	Public speaking skills – audible voice, eye contact, asking questions etc.	Informative sentence/s to be written on topics covered in class (with hand drawn illustrations or cut out pictures if appropriate)	<p>Publishing skills on the computer e.g. Typing, inserting picture, borders.</p> <p>Locating important information using child friendly information inserted into a word/publisher document.</p>

Homework Projects K-4

<u>Grade</u>	Year 3	Year 4
<u>Frequency</u>	fortnightly	fortnightly
<u>At home</u>	<p>Homework tasks written in homework books</p> <p>Semester 1 one oral project</p> <p>Semester 2 Individual project to be researched and completed on a topic being studied. (framework completed in class)</p>	<p>Homework tasks written in homework books</p> <p>Semester 1 one oral project</p> <p>Semester 2 Individual project to be researched and completed on a topic being studied. (framework completed in class)</p>
<u>At school</u>	<p>Project skills to be taught (or reviewed) and applied in class to:</p> <p>Semester 1 Group project on science or HSIE topic to be researched and completed in class. Teacher breaks topic into sub headings.</p> <p>Semester 2 one oral project</p>	<p>Project skills to be taught (or reviewed) and applied in class to:</p> <p>Semester 1 Group project on science or HSIE topic to be researched and completed in class. Teacher breaks topic into subheadings.</p> <p>Semester 2 one oral project</p>
<u>Skills Taught in class</u>	<p>Researching and locating information in books/library and internet/CD</p> <p>Summarising – writing related sentences on a sub heading</p> <p>Presentation and setting out skills.</p> <p>Publishing skills on the computer eg Inserting picture, borders, word art</p>	<p>Researching and locating information in books/library and internet/CD</p> <p>Summarising – writing related sentences (paragraphs) on a sub heading</p> <p>Presentation and setting out skills on cardboard, folder of A4 pages etc</p> <p>Publishing skills on the computer - Inserting pictures, borders, word art, Publisher templates</p>

Homework Organisation – Stage 3 - Years 5 & 6:

Student Diaries in Middle School:

The student diary is used to record homework and assignment tasks. Stage 3 students will be taught how to effectively use their student diaries to ensure sound study habits and routines are established.

Parents and Teachers are to use the diary as a means of communication between home and school. It is the responsibility of the student to show the teacher any notes in their diary from home.

Teachers and Parents need to sign the diary each day.

Setting Homework:

For Stage 3 school homework commences in Week 4 Term 1. Homework is set on a daily/weekly basis for years 5 and 6. The only exception will be for special events such as during the school musical, the last week of the school year or any other week determined by the school Principal.

The teacher may use his/her discretion in the administration of a system that best suits them and the students in their class. The setting of homework, however, should allow for flexible arrangements, enabling students to plan when to complete their work, so as to compliment other family commitments. Teachers are to communicate regularly and clearly to students the purpose of the homework they are setting.

Parent requests for additional homework will be dealt with by first listening to parent's reasons for asking, to ascertain whether the current class homework is appropriate. If the homework is considered to be an appropriate amount, the request will be politely refused and the teacher will encourage the parent to focus their children's attention on other equally important and valid extra-curricular activities.

Marking of Assignment tasks –

Teachers will provide a written comment to students after they have presented an oral report. For students in Years 5-6, the teacher will provide written feedback and a graded mark for all written assignments.

Students in Years 5 and 6 will also complete the self evaluation sheet.

Stage 3 Assignment tasks

<u>Grade</u>	Year 5	Year 6
<u>Frequency</u>	1x per semester	<p>Term 1-3 1 per term</p> <p>Term 4 2 assignment tasks</p>
<u>At home</u>	<p>Two written assignments (one of these with an oral component) Projects to occur in different semesters.</p> <p>Both projects will be guided by the teacher with students completing tasks at home as part of the set homework.</p> <p>Students are given a time framework to help them complete project on time. Students will submit partial assignments according to the set timeframe to assess progress and content (see attached sheet)</p> <p>Students are to evaluate their assignments using the same marking criteria the teacher will use to grade their work (see attached sheet) Separate marking criteria will be set for both the written and oral components.</p>	<p>Terms 1 - 3 One written assignment each term One project needs to be a group project, which is guided by the teacher. Students will allocate tasks to be completed individually at home with the final project being completed at school by the group.</p> <p>Term 4 Two written, with both being due in the same week.</p> <p>Out of the five assignments, three are to have an oral component and one is to be a book review.</p> <p>Students are to evaluate their assignments using the same marking criteria the teacher will use to grade their work (see attached sheet) Separate marking criteria will be set for both the written and oral components.</p> <p>Students are given a time framework to help them complete assignments on time (see attached sheet)</p>

<p><u>Skills Taught in class</u></p>	<p>Researching and locating information in books/library and internet/CD Summarising – writing related sentences (paragraphs) on a subheading Presentation and setting out skills on cardboard, folder of A4 pages etc Publishing skills on the computer – Revising inserting pictures, borders, word art, Publisher templates; power point presentation</p>	<p>Researching and locating information in books/library and internet/CD Summarising – Follow a method for writing a summary. See attached sheet. Presentation and setting out skills on cardboard, folder of A4 pages etc Publishing skills on the computer – Revising inserting pictures, borders, word art, Publisher templates; powerpoint presentation Evaluating Web Pages Recognise reliable internet sites eg .com is commercial, therefore the site may try to persuade the reader to purchase something; .edu is for educational purposes and may be more reliable. Look at when the website was updated. Check if the author is qualified to write on the topic. If the author references other sources, are they reliable.</p>
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