



HOMEWORK POLICY

Old Bar Public School

Rationale

“Schools, in consultation with their communities, are required to develop a school homework policy relevant to the needs of their students.”

Throughout 2013, concerns were raised by parents, students and teaching staff about the content, structure and variance of tasks set for homework.

Information gathered from current research data indicates:

“Homework must be purposeful and relevant to student needs and should not jeopardise the right of children to enjoy a balanced lifestyle” (Dixon, 2007)

It was on this premise that the Old Bar Public School Homework Policy has been reviewed and updated.

Policy Statement

The intention of this policy is to clearly define the purpose of homework, how it will be implemented and the responsibilities of all stakeholders.

“Homework is defined as any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals” DEC Homework Policy Guidelines

It has been agreed by staff and community that:

- Home Reading will be the only mandatory homework task set across the school, K-6
- Reading can be independent, parent/carer reading to child or child reading to parent /carer.
- Expectations of the time spent reading will be communicated clearly to students and their families.
- Sporting activities, family time, personal interests and play should be considered as important, valuable activities for students out of school hours.
- Parents/Carers will be informed of key focus areas or topics being studied so that consolidation and enrichment can be encouraged at home
- Students’ interests, creativity and positive attitude towards learning will be promoted through regular home/school interaction.



Implementation

This policy will be clearly communicated to all families upon enrolment at Old Bar Public School.

- Appropriate tasks/activities for 'home revision' will be communicated to students and their families .
- Educational websites that have been deemed appropriate for home use will be communicated to students and their families.
- A reading log or journal will be used to monitor and support the mandatory reading homework.
- Student projects throughout the year will be designed to promote independent learning, foster student interest areas and consolidate thematic units. These will be negotiated with students.
- During semester 2, Year 6 students will be exposed to a varying homework model that will assist in preparing students for High School expectations.
- Students who do NOT complete a homework task will not be disciplined.

Homework will be educationally beneficial and will meet the realistic expectations of student, teachers, parents and caregivers. DEC Homework Policy

Mandatory home reading will be the focus of homework at Old Bar Public School.

Variations might include:

- Time allocation recommendation for Early Stage 1, Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3
- Suggested 'open ended' tasks to assist students to develop and reflect on their learning
- Personal learning needs

Recommendations for time spent on homework

<p><u>Kindergarten</u></p> <p>Home reading from term 1 Reading log: 5 - 10 mins / night</p>	<p><u>Stage 1</u></p> <p>Reading log: 10-15 mins / night Basic skills as required Interest activities aligned with class topics</p>
<p><u>Stage 2</u></p> <p>Reading log: 15 – 20mins / night Basic skills as required Interest activities aligned with class topics 1 student project designed to promote independent learning.</p>	<p><u>Stage 3</u></p> <p>Reading log: 20 – 40+ mins / night Basic skills as required Interest activities aligned with class topics 1 student project designed to promote independent learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>During semester 2, year 6 students will be exposed to a varying homework model that will assist in preparing them for High School.</i>



Responsibilities

Teachers will:

- Implement the Homework policy
- Provide assistance to students as required
- Liaise with the school librarian to provide appropriate, varied reading material for student home reading
- Provide parents with a copy of the revised Old Bar Public School Homework policy
- Provide additional information and advice to parents as requested

Students will:

- Participate in the mandatory home reading program and keep a log of books read
- Seek support of teachers and parents / carers as required

Parents will:

- Support students to participate in home reading and other home tasks
- Communicate concerns or problems re homework to the class teacher

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The effectiveness of this policy will be continually evaluated using the following strategies:

- Student / teacher discussions
- Informal parent, student and teacher feedback
- Formal surveys
- Inclusion as a point of discussion during parent/teacher interviews

Resources

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.” Dr Seuss

Reading is the cornerstone of our Homework Policy. Students will be made aware of the following resources available to them and their families.

- School Library
- Local Library
- Premier’s Reading Challenge book list
- Class teacher and school librarian
- List of current, educational websites for school and home use.