



Hassall Grove Public School
Homework Policy and Procedures

Implementation Date: September 2023

Review Date: July 2024

Rationale: Hassall Grove Public School aims to build the skills and strategies to promote reading and numeracy for ongoing school improvement. The DoE states that, "In developing their Homework Policy, 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." (2012)

This document has been formed by a committee consisting of staff across K-6 and school executives. In Term 1, 2023, this committee surveyed parents/carers to find community beliefs about homework, and examined DoE and external research into the value of homework.

Research about homework is inconclusive. There is no consistent evidence that homework lifts academic performance, however, homework advocates claim that homework does so by increasing total study time (Dettmers, Trautwein, & Lüdtke, 2009), covering more of the curriculum, and reinforcing work covered in class (Blazer, 2009; HMI for Education and Training in Wales, 2004).

When consulting with our school community around the development of this policy, 65% indicated that despite there being inconclusive evidence of homework raising student achievement, they believed there were non-academic benefits (aligning with other bodies of research, such as Blazer 2009, Dixon 2007 and Cooper, Robinson & Patall 2006), including:

- Improving students' time management and organisational skills
- Improving attitudes towards schooling
- Fostering a sense of self-discipline
- Promotes a greater parental appreciation of, and involvement in, schooling.

It is vital that, as part of the school's homework policy, the school supports the need for the balance between homework and the many other commitments in students' lives. The quantity of homework should be manageable and should consider students' outside of school hour commitments. This resonated with 68% of survey respondents, who felt that time outside of school should be dedicated to non-curricular activities, such as outside play, socialising with friends and sporting activities.

Policy Statement: This document aims to provide clear guidelines about homework expectations at Hassall Grove Public School to our community, staff and students. It should be read in alignment with the NSW Department of Education (DoE) 'Homework Policy Guidelines' (2012) and DoE 'Homework Policy: Research Scan' (2012). This policy will be made available to all parents upon enrolment at Hassall Grove Public School.

Implementation

Responsibilities of the school

In ensuring that the schools' homework policy is consistent with the school's learning goals, homework will be set that aligns with the goals set out in the school's Strategic Improvement Plan (2021-2025), specifically:

- To improve student achievement in literacy and numeracy

83.4% of our school community believe that purposeful homework could be set through a combination of literacy and numeracy tasks. With this in mind, the policy reflects the following:

Kindergarten

As per the NSW DoE policy guidelines, students will not be expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. Students will be given decodable texts, at their instructional level, to read and practice, as daily reading has proven to be beneficial for all students.

Years 1-6

- Homework will comprise of stage-appropriate set literacy and numeracy tasks only- no matrixes or grids with a range of curricular and non-curricular based activities, as we recognise the time that students spend engaging in extra-curricular activities as their time.
- The literacy and numeracy tasks set will be current to the content being covered in class and will provide students with an opportunity to consolidate what they are learning at the time.
- Daily reading practice, at the students' instructional level, will make up a component of the literacy tasks.
- Homework will take into account students' access to technology beyond school and tasks will be set accordingly, so that ALL students can access them.
- Tasks will be set on a fortnightly basis and homework handed out Monday (odd week). • Tasks should be spread across the fortnight.
- Tasks are to be submitted back Friday even weeks.

Responsibilities of the teacher

- To explain the homework before distributing it on Monday even weeks.
- Consider students' commitments to outside of school activities and set homework that is not onerous of student time. As a general guide it should take students in Years 1-4 no more than 20 minutes to complete tasks each day and no more than 30 minutes for students in Years 5-6. This is consistent with community expectations, as indicated through survey data.

- Ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for ALL students.
- Support students having difficulty with homework. The student is to bring the task in question into school and the teacher will support them to understand and complete the task.
- Acknowledge homework upon collection on the Friday, providing timely and relevant feedback on student achievement if required.
- Answer any parent questions and/or discuss any issues around homework- this can be done through phone calls which the teacher will respond during general business hours or through making an appointment with the class teacher at a mutually convenient time, through the school office.
- Keep a record of homework completion.
- Whilst homework completion is not compulsory, it is outlined in the NSW DoE guidelines that the school will provide mechanisms for teachers and parents/carers to communicate about homework. Homework notices and reminders may be discussed at interview, emailed home or placed on Facebook.
- Ensure consistency of homework expectations across the school by discussing homework practices with their colleagues.

Responsibilities of the student

- Complete the homework tasks assigned by their teacher to consolidate learning from the classroom. This includes daily reading in line with policy expectations.
- Ask their teacher for help when needed.
- Submit their homework on time, unless there are some extenuating circumstances upon which the school can provide some flexibility and options.

Responsibilities of the parent

- Support their children in their understanding that homework set by the teacher is highly recommended as it consolidates learning from the classroom. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved with their child's homework. This should include supporting daily reading in line with policy expectations.
- Approach the school in the ways specified above if students are experiencing difficulties completing homework. Be confident that these concerns can be discussed with the teacher, and that guidance and assistance will be provided.

References

Cooper, H., Robinson, J., & Patall, E. (2006). Does homework improve academic achievement? A synthesis of research, 1987-2003. *Review of Educational Research*, 76, 1-62.

Department of Education (2012). *Homework Policy: Guidelines*. Retrieved 24 November, 2017, from https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/Hwk_Pol_guide.pdf Department of Education (2012). *Homework Policy:*

Research Scan. Retrieved 24 November, 2017, from https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/curriculum/schools/homework/Hwk_Res%20scan.pdf