



# Seven Hills North Public School School Policies



## Homework Policy

*November 2019*

### 1. Objectives

Homework is a purposeful learning experience. It will consolidate, extend and enrich the school program and promote home study habits in children in an environment of mutual support from teachers, parents and caregivers. Homework is a window for parents into their child's life at school.

### 2. Purposes of homework

Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:

- appropriate for each student's age and ability
- relevant to each student's needs
- purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- varied and challenging, but achievable
- built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.

Homework tasks should be assigned by teachers with a specific, explicit learning purpose. On completion, teachers should acknowledge student effort and provide feedback related to student learning.

### 3. Audience and applicability

- staff recognise that students engage in a diverse range of activities away from the school
- children are to be encouraged to be responsible for their own learning
- work must be derived from the school program and be consistent with the child's needs
- parents should contact the school if there are difficulties with homework. Work set by the school is expected to be given priority over tasks given by other sources
- a homework routine will be established in class
- parents are aware that students have homework routines
- parents can assist students to do homework but should not do the work for them
- homework is to be neatly presented
- teachers will collaborate to ensure consistency and appropriateness of homework allocations
- The Department of Education recommends homework but does not make it compulsory.

### 4. Context

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.

## 5. Responsibilities and delegations

**5.1 Principal** The principal is responsible for developing and implementing a school homework policy.

### 5.2 Setting of Homework

Parents will be informed at the beginning of the year of the particular expectations of their child's class teacher concerning homework. A common approach will be adopted across each grade/stage. Homework could include regular components of reading, spelling and mathematics as well as tasks relating to current studies across various Key Learning Areas.

Homework will be set on a regular basis so as to allow students and parents the opportunity to integrate the homework schedule into other family commitments.

### 5.3 Completion of Homework

A parent, caregiver or other appropriate person should supervise and support the completion of homework. Parents will be asked to check the quality of any written work, support their child to complete tasks and ensure that an environment prevails where children can complete their work free from distraction.

All students will be encouraged to complete homework. Homework is effective when it is completed regularly and routinely. If a student is experiencing difficulty completing homework tasks the teacher and parents will meet to discuss the issue, with a view to resolving any difficulties and, if necessary, establishing a more appropriate homework regime. Some homework will be group marked, other worked will be individually checked by teachers.

If parents do not wish their child to complete homework they should notify the class teacher in writing.

### 5.4 Checking of Homework

The teacher who set the homework will check all completed homework. Each teacher will keep a record of set homework and their students' performance in that homework. Students are to be given feedback by the teacher on the completed homework.

### 5.5 Homework Grids

In some classes, homework will consist of a homework grid, to be completed across a week or fortnight. Homework grids were designed by Dr Ian Lillico, a prominent educational researcher and their purpose is to encourage positive family interactions while helping children to practice essential life skills alongside their usual academic work.

Homework grids consist of various tasks and will include activities related to areas such as shopping, housework, family and cultural life, physical activity, art and investigations as well as academic work. Many activities require minimal adult intervention, recognising the busy lives families lead. However, parents are encouraged to support their children to complete activities.

Homework grids will be completed weekly or fortnightly, whereby students complete a variety of tasks in a set number of boxes within the grid. The number of boxes will be dependent upon the age and ability of the students.

## 6. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements

In consultation with parents and students the homework policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is being used to enhance student learning.

NSW Department of Education link to homework policy

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/homework-policy>