Rationale

Homework has the potential to affirm the partnership in learning between parents and teachers and is a valuable part of schooling. Homework allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. It trains students in planning and organising time and establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline that will serve students for the rest of their lives. Homework also extends gifted students.

Expectations

Parents and caregivers can help by:
- taking an active interest in homework and encouraging and supporting students to complete homework. The amount of support provided by parents will vary according to the age and ability of the students but students should always take responsibility for their homework;
- ensuring there is time set aside from homework and if possible providing a dedicated place for homework; and
- communicating with teachers any concerns or domestic or extracurricular activities that may affect the completion of homework.

Teachers can help by:
- explaining class procedures for the submission, marking and assessment of homework to students and parents;
- providing quality homework activities related to class work;
- providing full written instructions for homework;
- setting a suitable amount of relevant homework that is appropriate to the ability level of the class/stage;
- informing parents if homework is not completed on a regular basis; and
- marking homework promptly and maintaining homework records.

Students can help by:
- being aware of the school’s policy and the importance of homework;
- completing homework to the best of their ability and within the given time frame;
- seeking assistance if difficulties arise; and
- showing homework to parents for signing.
Implementation

- Homework will be distributed at the beginning of each week for completion on week nights. Homework will be returned on Fridays. In senior classes, homework may be negotiated to include weekends.

- Homework may include (depending on the age and ability of students):
  - Practice exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills;
  - Preparatory homework – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons; and
  - Extension assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. The presentation of extension assignments will be negotiated with students to cater for different learning styles.

- The suggested maximum time spent on homework each night should be:
  - Early Stage 1 (Kinder): 10 – 15 minutes
  - Stage 2 (Years 1 and 2): 15 – 30 minutes
  - Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4): 30 – 45 minutes
  - Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6): 45 – 60 minutes

Parents are asked to sign completed homework.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

For more information on the department’s homework policy log on to: www.det.nsw.edu.au Click on ‘Our Policies’.

Reference: DET Homework Policy 2000
In consultation with the community through survey 2005