BROOKE AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY (revised 2009)

Homework is an important aid to learning. It enables a student to revise and consolidate work treated in class. Many students require regular practice, particularly in the basic skills, to fulfil their potential. At Brooke Avenue PS homework is sent home every week except the first and last week of each term. Children usually take homework home on Monday and return it on Friday.

**BENEFITS OF HOMEWORK**

*Homework:*

- is a valuable part of schooling
- allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class
- provides training for students in planning and organising time
- develops students’ research skills
- establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their lives
- strengthens home-school links
- reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education
- provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children and
- challenges and extends gifted and talented children.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES INVOLVED WITH HOMEWORK**

The role of the teacher is to:

- explain to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework
- ensure students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school’s homework policy
- provide quality homework activities related to classwork
- set a suitable amount of relevant homework appropriate to the ability of students
- ensure that students are aware of homework expectations, and how work will be assessed
- give students sufficient time to complete homework, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations, extra-curricular activities and homework set by other teachers
- mark homework promptly and appropriately, maintain homework records and provide feedback to students and parents or caregivers and
alert parents or caregivers of any problems concerning their children’s homework and suggest strategies to assist their children with homework.

The task of the student is to:

- be aware of the school’s homework policy and the importance of homework
- complete and return homework within the given time frame
- inform parents or caregivers of homework expectations
- seek assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- show homework to their parents or caregivers
- ensure homework is of a high standard and
- organise themselves to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.

Parents and caregivers can help by:

- taking an active interest in homework
- ensuring time is set aside for homework
- providing their child/ren with the necessary tools to complete homework
- providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study
- encouraging their child/ren to read and take an interest in current events
- signing completed work if requested
- being aware of the amount of set homework
- communicating to teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their child/ren’s approach to the homework and
- informing the school of any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected. If a child has done the best that they can, let the teacher know and this can be accepted as complete.

**TYPES OF HOMEWORK**

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. It is important that all students have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

**The three main types of homework are as follows:**

**Practice exercises** - providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- consolidation exercises e.g. maths, including memorisation of tables
- practising for mastery e.g. spelling words
• revising information about a current topic
• practising words or phrases learnt in a language other than English
• reading for pleasure and
• writing of various text types.

Preparatory homework - providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

• background reading
• speech preparation
• reading e.g. English text for class discussion
• researching topics for a class unit of work and
• collecting items e.g. geometric shapes.

Extension assignments - encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

• writing e.g. a book review
• making or designing something e.g. an art work, project
• investigating & researching e.g. science, environment, history, local news
• information and retrieval skills e.g. using a home computer to find material on the internet and
• monitoring e.g. advertising in particular newspapers.

Wherever possible homework should recognise the benefits of using technology (such as home computers, e-mail and the internet) for organising and accessing information. Schools, however, should have regard for equity issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged.

### FREQUENCY OF HOMEWORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE</th>
<th>EACH DAY (Mon. to Thurs.)</th>
<th>Home Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Stage 1</td>
<td>10 minutes average</td>
<td>5 days a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1</td>
<td>10 minutes average</td>
<td>5 days a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2</td>
<td>20 minutes average</td>
<td>5 days a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3</td>
<td>30 minutes average</td>
<td>5 days a week</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Home Reading includes adults reading to children.

STUDENTS WILL NOT BE KEPT IN AT BREAKTIME TO COMPLETE HOMEWORK.

Children will not be punished for failing to return homework.

INCOMPLETE HOMEWORK ATTEMPTS CAN BE ACCEPTED AS COMPLETE AS LONG AS A PARENT HAS NOTIFIED THE TEACHER THAT THE CHILD HAS DONE THE BEST THAT THEY CAN.

Homework not brought in on the correct day may not be marked.
Reminders may be sent home when children constantly fail to return homework.