Homework Policy

Statement of Intent
Homework provides students with opportunities to; consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviours for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation, cultural and employment where appropriate.

Homework enhances student learning when it:
- is purposeful and relevant to students’ needs and capabilities
- is appropriate to the phase of learning (early, middle and senior) (See below)
- develops the student's independence as a learner
- is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities

Homework can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:
- revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practicing for mastery)
- applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue)
- pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making)
- preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information).

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:
- ensuring this homework policy is implemented and setting homework on a regular basis
- clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
- checking homework regularly and providing timely and useful feedback
- using homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students’ learning needs
- explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practise these strategies through homework
- giving consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework
- discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child’s homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:
- being aware of the homework policy and discussing homework expectations with their parents or caregivers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment
Parents and caregivers can help their children by:
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity
- helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning
- encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to homework

Homework appropriate to particular phases of learning
In the Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3) many activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills. Homework tasks may include:
- daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or other family members
- linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- conversations about what is happening at school
- preparation for oral presentations or writing for meaningful purposes

In the Middle Phase (Year 4 to Year 7) homework can be completed daily or over a weekly or fortnightly period and may:
- include daily independent reading
- be coordinated across different subject areas
- include extension of class work, projects and research

Prep Year: Homework activities support pre literacy and pre numeracy skills. Activities chosen should be completed in a very short amount of time.

Years 1, 2 and 3: Homework can be up to but generally not more than 1 hour per week.

Year 4 and 5: Homework can be up to but generally not more than 2-3 hours per week.

Year 6 and 7: Homework can be up to but generally not more than 3-4 hours per week.