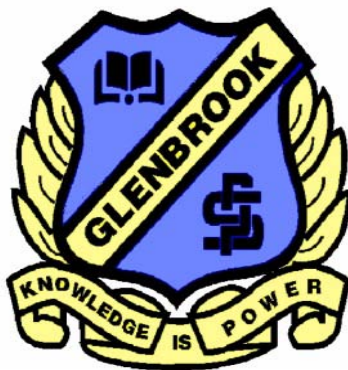


***GLENBROOK
PUBLIC
SCHOOL***



***HOMework
POLICY GUIDELINES
2010***

HOMEWORK POLICY GUIDELINES

PREFACE

These policy guidelines have been derived from the Homework Policy released by the NSW Department of Education and Training for implementation in all government schools.

Albeit that homework is an integral aspect of the teaching and learning process, it is important to recognise that time for leisure, recreational and physical activities is very important for students too.

It has long been recognised that for effective learning and for the fullest development of individual interests and potentialities, children need to undertake individual work at home in addition to their usual school work.

OVERRIDING PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

When setting homework, teachers should be cognisant of the fact that the main purpose of homework is to enable students to assimilate and consolidate work given at school and to train and inculcate habits of self-directed reading and home study.

THE VALUES OF HOMEWORK

The benefits of home work are:

- it strengthens home-school links;
- it allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done daily in class;
- it teaches students how to plan and organise their time;
- it develops students' research and study skills;
- establishes habits of concentration, perseverance and self-discipline; and
- affirms the role of parents as critical partners in the educative process.

KINDS OF HOMEWORK

Essentially, there are three types of homework:

- **practice exercises**
- **preparatory homework**
- **extension assignment/projects**

Practice exercises let students apply new knowledge or review, revise or reinforce newly acquired skills or understandings (concepts or rules), and constituting such exercises are memorisation of mathematical tables or number facts, practising spelling words and reciting poetry, reading specified material, practising a speech summarising an article and practising writing different text types etc.

Preparatory homework requires students to obtain information about an upcoming unit of work in order to better prepare them for future lessons.

Extension assignments/projects are designed to motivate students to pursue knowledge on topical or personal interests, issues or concern.

HOMEWORK PROTOCOLS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- **The nature, scope and subject matter of homework will be entirely left to the discretion of the class teacher.**
- All prescribed homework should be marked or otherwise systematically reviewed by the teacher.
- Teachers should take special precautions to make clear to students the limits of the work set.
- Teachers should devote time to explain how students are expected to approach, set out and organise the prescribed work.
- Teachers need to be mindful that if a parent has expressed unwillingness to allow their child to do homework, this wish must be respected and complied with.
- For Years 3 and 4 students and Years 5 and 6 students, formal homework should rarely need to exceed three (3) sessions per week.
- For Years 3 and 4 students and Years 5 and 6 students formal homework sessions of up to 30 minutes and 45 minutes respectively are not unreasonable.
- Setting weekend homework should be the exception not the rule for primary-aged students.
- Detention for not completing homework exercises can prove counter productive.
- Parents should be advised if their children consistently do not complete prescribed homework.

HOMEWORK FOR KINDERGARTEN – YEAR 2 STUDENTS

In setting homework for students Kindergarten – Year 2 students:

- an informal approach should primarily prevail;
- parents should be encouraged to, and apprised of the value of, introducing and consolidating a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving by capitalising on family activities such as shopping, preparing food, listening to stories, learning songs and nursery rhymes, reading to the children, collecting items and family outings; and
- when some formal homework is set, it should comprise simple exercises involving computations, problem solving, memorising number facts, reading comprehension or completing an activity sheet.

HOMEWORK FOR YEARS 3-6 STUDENTS

In setting homework for students 3-6:

- teachers will continue to provide guidance and assistance in the development of research and study skills;
- teachers will increasingly have students, as they progress from Year 3 to Year 6, working independently on their homework;
- teachers will cover a range of different types of homework; and
- most homework will be set in English, Mathematics and Human Society and its Environment.

ENLISTING PARENT ASSISTANCE WITH HOMEWORK

In formal forums such as parent information nights, parent-teacher interviews and via the school's newsletter, teachers should encourage parents to:

- take an active interest in their children's homework;
- ensure that they set aside time for homework;
- provide a dedicated place for homework and study;
- assist teacher to monitor homework by signing completed work;
- convey any concerns about the nature and scope of the homework set and their children's approach to homework to the class teacher;
- motivate their children to read and take an interest in current events;
- advise the class teacher of any domestic or extra-curricula activity which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked; and
- support their children to complete their set homework.