



Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic School

Homework Policy

Purpose

Homework provides an opportunity to:

- practice skills and reinforce learning
- develop time management strategies
- engage parents in their children's learning.

Outcomes

Students will be able to organise their time effectively, revise work introduced in class and become more independent and responsible for their learning. Parents will have information about the skills taught in class and the depth of their children's learning.

School Requirements

The focus of Homework in **Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2** will be reading and recording in a Reading Journal. Additional homework may include 'Book Bags' and/or finishing written work not completed during the day and/or practicing specific literacy and numeracy skills.

For students in Year 2

A Homework Grid will be sent home at the beginning of the term and students will be expected to complete one activity on the grid per week.

For students in Years 3-6,

This is a guide for parents and students:

Year 3 and Year 4 20 minutes per day

Year 5 and Year 6 30 minutes per day

Homework will include reading daily, (minimum time 10 minutes). Other homework will also be set by the class teacher. Where assignments or contracts are set, the class teacher will communicate the purpose and requirements to students and parents.

Timing of Homework

Term 1 - Homework will commence either Week 2 or 3

Term 2-4 - Homework will commence Week 1 with a break from homework in Week 5.

In Week 6 there will be a break from homework to promote a week of "Well Being" for all in the community. This is an initiative to promote mental health and well-being.

Teacher expectations

- Teachers set homework regularly, check completion of tasks and provide feedback to the child
- Teachers check and respond to parents' remarks or questions
- Incomplete homework will be documented in student and teacher records and recorded on the student's end of semester report
- Direct students to complete homework during lunchtime.

Student expectations

- Students are responsible for completing homework set to the standard expected for all class work i.e. clean, legible, neat, well set out.
- Homework to be handed in by the due date
- Students who don't complete homework will be expected to finish their homework during lunchtime either on the verandah or under supervision of the teacher.

Parent expectations

- Parents check written work and sign Reading Logs and check Diaries and written work.

Tasks set are minimal but the range of abilities and attitudes in any one class means that some children will complete the set tasks more quickly than others. Parents are asked to make an appointment to discuss homework with their child's class teacher if the child is struggling to complete the work in a reasonable time and also if the desired outcomes (see above) are not being achieved.

In some circumstances, children may have homework from other sources (such as speech and language therapy) and this should be considered.

Revision of Homework Policy: To be reviewed every year or as required.

Reviewed: January 2017

Attachment: Some comments about homework

Some comments about homework.....

Teachers at OLPS recognise that children need, and most do, experience a variety of after school activities. The available range of experiences seems endless and may include art or music classes, sports clubs, hobby groups, foreign language classes, dancing, ballet, cubs, scouts, brownies, martial arts, horse riding. The teachers believe that such activities build 'islands of competence' (Michael Carr-Gregg) which result in further development of children's self esteem.

The need for children to eat well, to have adequate sleep, to relax, to play and to have a choice of recreational activities is understood and valued by the staff and parent community at OLPS.

So, where, we must ask, does homework fit as an after school activity?

Homework: The Beast by Betty Quantz from "Schools That Learn"

'Homework is such a pain! I think that statement could have been made by a teacher, a student, or a parent. Considering how much a part of schooling homework is, it's fascinating how much everybody hates it. Except for the occasional project, my kids generally think of homework as boring and a waste of their time. Their teachers continuously complain about the amount of time they spend checking homework. And as the parent supervising homework, I alternate between fury and tears.

If students can't stand it, teachers don't like the preparation and book-keeping it requires, and parents don't like standing over their children, why am I still fighting this beast?

I tried everything to get my kids to realise how important homework is. I bribed them with money and special trips. This worked for a while but very quickly faded as they began to say that no amount of money is worth the torture, and if we go to the zoo this weekend, I won't be able to finish my homework. Then I turned to punishment: no TV, no overnights, no friends visiting. They still didn't do their homework but they complained a lot.....

I discerned that some people believe that if a student does not have homework every night- and lots of it- the student is not learning and the teacher is not doing a good job. Some parents judge the teacher by the amount of homework set. But, less is more. More homework does not mean more learning.....'

Ask any group of parents about homework and opinions will vary too much, not enough, too hard, too easy.... So, if all children are different, catering for individual needs should be paramount. In a unique way, reading books and magazines of one's choice can allow for individual differences to be well catered for.

Sue Host

Reviewed: 14 September 2015