



MOSMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale

Mosman Public School's Homework Policy acknowledges that homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class.

Parents value homework as a way of overseeing and contributing to their child's education and as a means of measuring their achievements and progress. The school recognises and values the quality of experiences and assistance provided for its students through their parents' involvement in homework.

Policy statement

Through homework, Mosman Public School aims to encourage and foster all students to achieve high standards in planning and organising time and developing a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Students will be encouraged and guided in establishing habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.

Homework will be educationally beneficial and will meet the realistic expectations of students, teachers, parents and caregivers.

'In developing their Homework Policy, schools should be aware that while the policy itself is compulsory, the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year levels are not.' (Public Schools NSW Homework Policy Guidelines May 2012)

Implementation

Mosman Public School's Homework Policy is formulated in line with the Education and Communities' Homework Policy and Guidelines.

Homework should be:

- appropriate for each student's age and ability
- relevant to each student's needs
- purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- varied and challenging, but achievable
- built on knowledge and skills and understanding developed in class
- clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulty with homework.

In setting homework, teachers should consider that:

- homework is age appropriate
- students' outside of school commitments are varied
- students have access to resources and technology
- expectations and routines are clearly communicated to students and parents
- flexibility and options are available to allow for different students' circumstances
- regular monitoring and marking of homework occurs, with feedback provided when appropriate.

Teachers will have the freedom to follow their own homework system and routines. As students progress through the stages of learning, formal homework programs will increase in intensity. The amount of homework and type of homework should not be so demanding as to adversely affect interest and motivation. The time allocated should be consistent with other classes and be year levels appropriate. The following are guideline times per night for allocating homework.

- Kindergarten - Year 2 - 10-20 minutes.
- Year 3-4 - 20-30 minutes.
- Year 5-6 - 30-40 minutes.

Types of homework

Students will complete a variety of homework tasks. Homework tasks may be more varied than pencil and paper tasks. Some tasks will need to be completed in a weekly or fortnightly cycle. Other tasks may require a number of weeks to complete and may require verbal and /or physical delivery.

Homework tasks could include the following:

- Reinforcement of spelling and language conventions;
- Reinforcement of tables and maths concepts;
- Reading practice - Duration to be 10-15 minutes to provide enjoyment, strengthening confidence, and reading skills;
 - Home readers for Kindergarten to Year 2
 - Sight words and phonics drills for Kindergarten and Year 1
 - Library books Kindergarten to Year 6 – reading for pleasure.
- Research – This requires more initiative on the part of the student and depends on the content of resources and access to technology in the home, school and local libraries. Emphasis should be placed on the development of study skills, summary accuracy and presentation rather than copying information;
- Projects – These will build on class themes in HSIE, Science, English or other KLA content covered;
- Story writing;
- Media reports;
- Library reports;
- Interviews;
- Utilising specific media like TV, radio Apps, YouTube clips, etc;
- Edmodo tasks or other digital technology tasks set by class teacher;
- Public Speaking – Speaking is a strand of the English KLA and tasks will be set for students to present in front of the class. These include news, poetry recitals, Multicultural Public Speaking Competition and/or Mosman Public School’s annual public speaking competition;
- Special work – There will always be pupils who, because of individual needs, will require extra assistance. This is best approached by effective teacher-parent goal setting. Homework can be used to develop talents and to encourage slower learners.

Evaluation

The policy will be monitored and evaluated through teacher-teacher discussions, collating parent responses and comments, student ideas and feedback. A more formal review will occur through the Annual School Report cycle of surveys and reporting.

Reference

Education and Communities’ Homework Policy and Guidelines. (*Public Schools NSW Homework Policy Guidelines May 2012*)

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