



# Avoca Beach Public School

## HOMWORK POLICY

The following policy has been developed with reference to the DEC policy *Homework Policy*.

### **Rationale**

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.

### **Policy**

Homework enhances and reinforces the learning and development of students and encourages and supports parental involvement in student learning and the home school partnership.

### **Implementation**

Every child, every teacher and every parent/carer has a homework commitment. Homework may be initiated by the teacher and/or supplemented by the parent/carer. Teacher set homework is directly related to classroom activities. It is achievable and relevant to the child's ability. Not all homework must be formal or written. It may require, for instance, discussions with parents or viewing of a television program.

*Reading is part of every child's nightly homework and is greatly enhanced by family support.*

Homework will:

- be manageable for both students and teachers
- take into account student's access to resources and technology
- be clearly communicated to students
- provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances, including outside commitments
- be encouraged - rather than punished - for non completion

*The principal's homework commitment is to:*

- develop a Homework Policy, in consultation with their school community
- communicate the Homework Policy to staff students, parents/caregivers
- monitor and support teachers in the implementation of the Homework Policy
- ensure that homework is consistent with the school's learning goals
- support the need for balance between homework and the many other commitments in students' lives
- provide mechanisms for teachers and parents/caregivers to communicate about homework
- recognise that some parents/caregivers may not agree with the school policy on homework. This may necessitate the development of alternative strategies

*Each teacher's homework commitment is to:*

- provide written information to parents including; what to expect of school initiated homework and procedure for its collection and correction
- ensure students are aware what is expected of them and how their work will be assessed
- provide appropriate tasks which consolidate knowledge and develop automaticity skills
- provide additional opportunities for student directed inquiry as required
- promptly and accurately provide feedback; including marking on teacher-set homework

*Each parent/carer's homework commitment is to:*

- support and encourage students in completing homework independently
- provide, if possible, a designated place and desk for homework and study
- communicate with teachers any concerns regarding homework completion

*Each student's homework commitment is to:*

- complete work within the given time-frame and at a standard comparable to class work
- read every night
- return set homework at the given time
- communicate with class teacher any concerns regarding homework completion

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

Recommended time children should spend weekly on homework activities including home reading is as follows:

Kinder/Year1	15 minutes - 1 hour
Year 2	45 minutes - 1.5 hours
Year 3/4	1 - 2 hours
Year 5/6	1.5 hours - 2.5 hours

#### Extended absences

When students are travelling or are unwell for an extended period of time, regular reading and a diary that contains a daily written recount of their experiences, is appropriate.

#### **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

In consultation with staff, parents/carers and students the homework policy will be monitored and reviewed to ensure that it is enhancing and reinforcing student learning, that it is manageable for all stake-holders and is maintaining a positive partnership between school and home.

Ratified by school executive & LST: 28 January 2015

Ratified by P&C/School community: 9 February 2015

Ratified by teaching staff: 5 February 2015

Review date: 2017