

Avondale Primary School Homework Policy

Introduction

This homework policy was developed in consultation with Avondale Primary School parents, teachers and with regard to DEECD Homework Guidelines.

At Avondale Primary School we see homework as an opportunity for parents to participate in their children's education and that homework complements and reinforces classroom learning and fosters lifelong study habits.

We believe that homework should not encroach on family time but rather become part of family time and that it will encourage children to set aside some time each day to some school work.

Types of homework

The homework set for children will vary depending on their age and the classroom focus at any one time.

The degree of difficulty and length of homework will also be set according to the age and abilities of children at a particular grade level.

Practice exercises

Practice exercises provide children with opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills. They include:

- Completing maths exercises.
- Practising spelling.
- Practising words or phrases learnt in a language other than English.
- Reading.
- Writing essays and other creative tasks.
- Practising and playing musical instruments.
- Practising physical education skills.

Preparatory homework

Preparatory homework provides opportunities for children to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons. For example:

- Reading background material for history.
- Reading English texts for class discussion.
- Researching topics for class work.
- Collecting newspaper articles.
- Revising information about a current topic.

Extension assignments

Extension assignments encourage children to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. For example:

- Writing a book review.
- Making or designing an artwork.
- Completing science investigation exercises.
- Researching local news.
- Finding material on the internet.
- Monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

Parents Can Help

Rather than view homework as a separate from regular family life, we encourage parents to take an interest in their children's homework and make it a part of the family routine.

Parents can:

- Encourage a regular daily time for their children to complete their homework
- Discuss key questions or suggest resources to help with homework
- Help make it a fun, positive part of the day
- Help to balance the amount of time spent between homework and recreational activities, children should see homework as part of a daily routine and not leave it to the "last minute".
- Ask how homework and class work is progressing and acknowledge success
- Talk to teachers to discuss problems with homework
- Discuss homework with their children in their first language (if English is not the main language spoken at home).

Implementation

- Parents will be advised of homework expectations at the beginning of each year and will be provided with a copy of the school's homework policy.
- Homework will be sent home according to a weekly routine outlined by teachers, unless other arrangements have been made for a particular week.
- Homework will be set according to children's capabilities and will reflect the school Homework Policy.
- Homework needs to be completed and returned to school by the due date for correction.
- By doing some homework each night children shouldn't be required to spend longer than the times detailed in this policy.
- Students who wish to spend more than the prescribed amount of time on homework should negotiate this with their parents.

Time Recommended (As per DEECD Guidelines)

- Prep to Grade 4: Should not exceed 30 minutes each night.
- Grade 5 / 6: Should not exceed 45 minutes each night.

