



# FLOREAT PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

## HOMWORK POLICY 2015

Endorsed 2014

Review Date: November 2015

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### RATIONALE

*Homework supports higher levels of student achievement by extending the time available for them to revise and reflect on the skills and concepts learned at school, explore new ideas and situations which are relevant to the curriculum.*

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

#### Effective homework seeks to:

- Strengthen independent study skills
- Motivate children to study by setting them interesting and challenging tasks that are related to their class work.

#### Teachers will:

- Clearly inform and provide parents with the school homework policy and guidelines and class/year level homework procedures and expectations at the start of each year as well as when new students enrol
- Clearly explain homework to students with sufficient written instructions and timeline
- Encourage students to use a diary/journal (or similar) to assist with homework requirements in the middle and upper years
- Ensure that homework consolidates the skills and concepts which have been learnt at school and extends the time available for the exploration of new ideas and situations
- Design homework tasks which further develop school home relationships and can assist in keeping parents informed about the student's learning program and progress
- Ensure that homework is consistent with the Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline and school plans
- Design the task such that it requires an appropriate time commitment and does not impact unreasonably on personal and social skills or family time
- Provide homework tasks that include online activities
- Contact parents if homework expectations are not being met by their child
- Check and mark homework when it is due.

#### Assisting your child with their homework at home:

- Provide your child with a quiet time and place to do homework. Switch off the TV
- Siblings need to respect that those engaged in homework should not be disturbed
- Show a genuine interest in your child's homework and become involved, but refrain from doing it for them
- Establish a homework routine and be aware of homework procedures, e.g.: Reading Folder and Homework Diary, Spelling Journal
- Ensure that your child has the tools necessary to complete the homework, e.g.: pens, pencils, calculator, ruler, eraser, glue, scissors and paper
- Keep in touch with your child's teacher, especially if difficulties are experienced
- Should form the basis of a positive opportunity for parents and children to enjoy learning together.

**NOTE:** Supervised access to the internet may assist students engaged in research tasks.

A normal homework week is Monday to Thursday. Children are not expected to complete homework on Fridays, weekends or public holidays, although they may choose to complete assigned work during that time. The amount of homework should allow children to participate in and benefit from a range of out of school activities.

### **Kindergarten and Pre-primary**

(Approximately 10 minutes per night)

Examples of appropriate homework tasks in this area are:

- Nightly reading- including library books, comprehension books and take home readers (sent home as appropriate)
- High frequency word development
- Phonics and Maths skills as required
- Story book time (*Kindergarten*): a library book goes home each week with a set of oral comprehension questions. Families are encouraged to share the book; rereading it several times during the week.

### **Years 1 and 2**

(Approximately 10-15 minutes per night)

Examples of appropriate homework tasks in this area are:

- Phonics, spelling and word recognition practice
- Nightly oral reading, silent reading, reading for pleasure, adults reading to children
- Practice and reinforcement of number facts as appropriate
- Preparation of news
- Discussing and addressing concepts from all subjects.

### **Years 3 and 4**

(Approximately 20-30 minutes per night)

In the middle years of primary schooling practice and reinforcement opportunities in homework can introduce children to the process of investigating and researching independently.

Examples of appropriate homework tasks in this area are:

- Practice of Mathematics concepts taught in class
- Nightly reading
- Exposure to research and problem/solving tasks
- Journal writing
- Learning spelling words
- Online learning opportunities.

### **Years 5 and 6**

(Approximately 30-40 minutes per night)

In the upper primary years homework includes, but goes beyond, practice and reinforcement exercises as in previous years.

Examples of appropriate homework tasks in this area are:

- Nightly reading
- Practice and reinforcement exercises arising from class work
- Short and longer term tasks that develop time management skills
- Book reviews
- Work that involves research and investigatory skills but recognises the limitation of the children's access to references and resources.
- Puzzles and problem solving challenges
- Completion of class work.