

# **ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK GUIDELINES**

## **Preamble**

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. The link between home and school is vital for each child's success at school. Teachers working in partnership with parents will help a child achieve success at school. At Ascot Vale Primary School we build on the successful learning provided by parents. Homework provides a link between learning at school and learning at home.

Our Homework Policy has been developed with the teachers, Leadership Team, Education sub committee and the School Council. It is consistent with the education philosophy of Ascot Vale Primary School and with DE&T guidelines.

## **Principles**

- Homework is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.
- Parents are advised of homework expectations at the beginning of each school year and are provided with a copy of the school's homework policy. This may occur at the initial interview.
- Students benefit from completing homework regularly. Homework helps them develop organisational and time-management skills, self discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and personal responsibility for learning.
- A Homework Diary is used in grades 5 / 6. Diaries provide a means of regular communication between parents and the school. The purpose and use of the diary is outlined at the information at the beginning of each year.
- Follow up of homework will occur

## Successful practice

*In the Early Years* (Prep to Year 4), homework should not be seen as a chore.

**Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older sibling.**

It will

- enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials
- mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older sibling.
- enable parents to use teaching practices used in the classrooms such as the pause, prompt, praise method for reading.

This will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during vacations.

*In the Middle Years* (Years 5 to 9), homework:

- will include daily independent reading
- may include extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research.

This will generally range from 30 – 45 minutes a day at year 5 and 6.

## Types of homework

Homework should:

- be appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- be interesting, challenging and open ended
- be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

## Implementation:

Provide students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills. This includes:

- completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics – memorisation of tables
- practising spelling words
- practising words or phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English
- reading for pleasure / students will take home texts to read each day, these will include a variety of genre
- writing essays and other creative tasks
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising physical education skills
- completing integrated activities which may be project / task work

***Preliminary steps from the Unit***— Parents to be informed via class newsletter. This is aimed at providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:

- reading background material for the semester theme or integrated study topic
- reading English texts for class discussion
- researching topics for class work
- collecting newspaper articles
- revising information about a current topic.

***Extension assignments*** — encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:

- writing a book review
- making or designing an art work
- completing Science investigation exercises
- researching local news
- finding material on the Internet
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

## **Expectations**

***Parents and caregivers can help their children by:***

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation;
- observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing;
- attending school events, displays or productions in which their children are involved;
- encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework;
- setting an example by reading themselves;
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with homework;
- helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources. Usually it is better to encourage children to complete homework themselves;
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities;
- check whether homework for grade 5 / 6 students has been set and ensuring they keep a homework diary;

- read texts set by teachers. Discussing their child's response to the texts and asking to see work they complete in relation to these texts, and
- discuss homework in their first language through using relatives friends or official translators as determined by the class teacher, where English is not the main language spoken at home. It should also be linked to their previous experiences.

***Teachers can help their students by:***

- set regular homework to help students establish a home study routine;
- set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work that are appropriate to the students' learning needs;
- give students enough time to complete homework, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities;
- assess homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support;
- make effective use of homework diaries for upper primary and secondary students;
- coordinate the allocation of homework by different teachers in secondary schools;
- help students develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning;
- ensure that students have good information skills
- ensure that parents and caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy, and
- develop strategies to support parents to become active partners in homework, negotiated tasks with parents will be organized on request

This policy was ratified by School Council in September 2004

***This policy is due to be reviewed in 2007.***