

Canterbury Public School

Homework policy

Rationale

Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning and allowing them to practise skills and concepts learnt in the classroom. It also allows them to practice life skills in order to cope with life beyond school and home.

There is no evidence to suggest a link between lengthy homework tasks and success at university. However, there is evidence that suggests a link between organisational and time management skills and success at university. There is no doubt that children need to practice concepts learnt at school, within time constraints, but the definition of 'homework' needs to be reassessed to include any work that children do at home that will benefit them as outlined above, and contributes to shared family time.

The role of homework

- Developing independent learning, self discipline time management and organisational skills.
- Providing opportunities to practice and consolidate the skills introduced during the day.
- Understanding how their in-class learning can be applied to their at-home world.
- Extending student's knowledge of the world around them.
- Providing opportunities to learn more about individual interests.
- Encouraging good study habits in preparation for further education.

The role of the parent

- Remember that it is the child's homework and he/she must have the final say about the finished product. It is their learning and they must have ownership of it for it to have any value.
- Teachers learn more about how a student is managing by examining the processes that a student has gone through rather than the final product and these processes may be quite different from the ones used when you went to school. Contact the teacher if your child is experiencing difficulties with homework expectation.
- Make sure your child has had time to eat and play and unwind before beginning their homework. Exercise, fresh air and social contact are critical aspects of health and well-being. Remember, your child has had six hours of challenging work already and the batteries are probably flat.
- Provide a comfortable environment that is relatively free from distractions and has a steady supply of equipment so they don't waste a lot of time "looking" for a pencil!
- Help them plan when they will do the homework assignment over the two week period they have to complete it in. Setting up a calendar with planned sessions may help everyone remember and they know they won't miss out on something they love doing eg. Their favourite TV show.
- You are your child's coach and cheer squad!

The role of the student

- Accept that homework is a part of school life, whether you like it or not, so just do it.
- Homework is helping you to develop a strong work ethic as well as independent learning and time management skills. You will really find these very useful when you get to high school.
- Make sure you know exactly what you have to do. If you don't, find a time in your day to ask the teacher to explain it again. You can do this privately at lunch or recess or at the end of the day.
- Bring completed homework assignments back to school by the day they are due.

The role of the teacher

- Encouraging, supporting and helping students with homework tasks.
- Setting assignment tasks that reflect the learning in the classroom.
- Discussing, explaining and modelling all activities outlined on the homework grid.
- Set work for students on individual learning plans that support that student's development.
- Giving constructive feedback on completed homework assignments.
- Ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy.

Procedures for Homework

Students in Years 1-6 will be provided with a homework grid at the commencement of each year or at the commencement of their time at Canterbury Public School.

Teachers will set research tasks relating to different curriculum areas throughout the year.

The homework policy will be reviewed regularly in consultation with the school community.

**Canterbury Public School
Homework Grid
Years 1-6 2008**

	Read a variety of books including school books.						Be read to by another member of the family.						Shopping with parents or play a game with an adult.										
	Physical activity/ Sports training						Housework						Creative Arts Music practice										
	Practise something you were taught at school. This may include telling or teaching something to your parents.						Meditation Spiritual/ Relaxation/quiet time						Assignments/Computer Project research										

Our homework approach acknowledges the importance of family life and active pursuits of children and encourages students to plan their time to complete the set tasks within the constraints of their after school commitments.