

HOMWORK GUIDELINES

At Mandurah Primary School, teachers and administrators have an approach to homework that takes into account the needs of the students and the phase of their development, and reflects the context and needs of our school.

Homework can support higher levels of student achievement by extending the time available for students to consolidate skills and concepts learned at school. It also extends the time available for the exploration of new ideas and new situations. Homework can also extend the time available to the teacher for the monitoring of student progress.

It is expected that homework will relate directly to the learning and teaching programs appropriate to the needs of students. Preparation of students for the time commitment of homework anticipated in years to come is not, in itself, a reasonable basis for setting homework. It should also be noted that there are some learning programs and situations where it may be determined that homework is not useful or appropriate.

Homework at Mandurah Primary School should be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- interesting, challenging and when appropriate open ended
- assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided
- balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.
- Developed in consultation with staff and parents and endorsed by the school board.

Homework at Mandurah Primary School should:

1. Provide opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- reading for pleasure
- practising spelling words
- practising times tables
- practising physical education skills
- writing essays and other creative tasks
- practising and playing musical instruments
- completing consolidation exercises for all Learning Areas

2. Encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:

- writing a book review
- researching local news
- finding material on the Internet
- making or designing an art work



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SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH HOMEWORK

Teachers can support students by:

- equipping students with the skills to solve problems
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensuring parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- developing strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in homework.

Parents can support students by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

