



# **GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOL**

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK**

#### **Homework:**

- Is a valuable part of schooling
- Allows for practising and consolidating work done in class
- Provides training for students in planning and organising time
- Establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their lives
- Strengthens home-school links
- Reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education
- Provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children

### **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

#### **Homework is most beneficial when:**

- It reinforces classwork and consolidates basic skills and knowledge
- It is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the student's motivation
- Parents or caregivers are involved in the implementation of the school's homework policy
- Students take responsibility for their homework, supported by their parents or caregivers
- It is well co-ordinated and teacher expectations are well communicated
- It is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study
  
- Teachers set suitable amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, stage of schooling and capabilities of students
- It is marked and feedback and follow-up are provided regularly to students
- It develops the core learning skills of inquiry and independent study.

## **TYPES OF HOMEWORK**

**Practice exercises** – providing students with the opportunities to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- Consolidation exercise
- Practising for mastery
- Revising information about a current topic
- Practising words or phrases learnt in a language other than English when applicable
- Reading for pleasure
- Writing.

**Preparatory homework** – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- Background reading
- Collecting items

**Time Allocation** – Grafton has set the following times as the **ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM** for homework per day:-

Kinder, Year 1, Year 2	Interest level – up to 15 minutes
Year 3 and 4	30 minutes
Year 5	45 minutes
Year 6	60 minutes

(Home reading time would be included in this time)

If a student completes the set homework in less time than the above there is no need for parents to set additional tasks.

Homework should be completed within these times. If children are exceeding these times, it is important for parents to contact the school as soon as possible as this may well be a sign for other problems.

## **SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE**

### **Kindergarten – Year 2 (Stage 1)**

Teachers will set formal homework in Stage 1. This may include completing simple computations, copying letters or words, completing an activity sheet and Home Readers.

Parents should be aware that all activities at home or in play can assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. It should also be remembered that self-directed play in unstructured time is important. Language and number concepts can be introduced and consolidated in many family activities, including:

- Shopping
- Preparation of food
- Listening to stories, learning songs and nursery rhymes
- Conversations about what is happening at school
- Interactive video and computer programs
- Reading
- Library borrowing
- Family outings
- Collecting items

### **Years 3-6 (Stages 2 and 3)**

It is important that students can have the opportunity to experience different types of homework and that the amount of time students are expected to work on homework is realistic.

Although most homework is likely to be set in the areas of English, Mathematics and Human Society and its Environment, it could be set across all areas of the curriculum.

In some cases homework will be set to be done by a certain date. This encourages children to begin to organise their time and is good preparation for High School.

### **Parents and caregivers can help by:**

- Taking an active interest in homework
- Ensuring that there is time set aside for homework
- Encouraging and supporting students to complete homework
- Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study
- Encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events
- Monitoring homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set

### **Teachers can help by:**

- Explaining to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework
- Ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy
- Providing quality homework activities related to classwork

- Setting a suitable amount of relevant homework
- Ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them and how their work will be assessed
- Marking homework, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents of caregivers

**Students can help by:**

- Being aware of the importance of homework
- Being aware of their school's homework policy
- Completing homework within the given time frame
- Alerting parents or caregivers to homework expectations
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- Showing their homework to their parents or caregivers
- Ensuring homework is of a high standard
- Organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.