



BLAXLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY



POLICY STATEMENT

Homework provides further opportunities for parents and carers to share and celebrate in their child's learning and to strengthen the partnership between school and home.

STATEMENT of PURPOSE

Homework provides the capacity for students to practise, consolidate and extend school based learning. Parents are able to support their child's development of skills and strategies in organisation, managing time, locating and utilising alternative resources, study practices and concentration.

The principal will:

- ensure the development and implementation of the Homework Policy for Blaxland Public School corresponds with NSW Department of Education and Communities' guidelines;
- provide staff with the resources to implement homework activities and
- implement staff and parent meetings to review and improve homework practices Kindergarten to Year 6.

The teachers will:

- provide appropriate homework for their students;
- take into consideration that students may be involved in out of school activities such as sport, drama, music etc;
- take into consideration that students may be required to complete home based tasks each afternoon;
- be aware that not all students have access to technology, such as the internet and email;
- provide practice activities such as memorising multiplication tables, practicing spelling words and reading;
- provide homework that will require students to prepare for a lesson to be given on a specific topic;
- provide homework designed to enrich or extend student knowledge and
- encourage students to discuss any difficulties experienced with homework.

The students will:

- ensure their homework goes home;
- take responsibility for the completion of their homework;
- return their homework to school when required;
- talk to their teacher if they are experiencing difficulties and
- talk to mum or dad if they need help.

Parents can help by:

- taking a positive interest in homework;
- helping their child set a time and place aside for homework;
- letting their child's teachers know of any concerns or difficulties and
- encouraging their child.

Homework Kindergarten to Year 6

While homework at Blaxland Public School is encouraged it is considered voluntary.

Homework for Kindergarten

Kindergarten will not receive formal homework. We do encourage students to take a reader home from their home reading box each day. This may be a reader the child can read independently to mum or dad or it may be a book for mum or dad to read to their child.

The recommended time period for homework is no more than five minutes per day, Monday to Friday.

Homework for Years 1 and 2

Year 1 and Year 2 teachers will set some formal homework.

This may include:

- taking a book home from the home reading box on a daily basis and
- the completion of a weekly activity sheet that includes literacy or numeracy tasks. The recommended time period for homework is no more than ten minutes per day, Monday to Friday.

Kindergarten to Year 2

Students requesting additional work.

We suggest:

- parent reading;
- puzzles;
- drawing a picture and articulating what the picture is for mum or dad to scribe or label the drawing;
- setting the table for dinner and counting out the cutlery, discussing pairs, like items etc
- helping to make a shopping list;

- cooking - Family Circle and Women's Weekly have some very good cookery books for little people;
- creative craft (a box of odds and ends)
- computer activities (the school web page has recommendations for excellent educational sites which provide free access);
- commercial educational games that provide activities that develop vocabulary, positional language, maths or literacy etc
- NES Books in Penrith (Educational Suppliers)
- the local library for books, games, educational material etc

Homework for Years 3 and 4

All students are encouraged to read for personal pleasure on a daily basis. Year 3 and Year 4 teachers will set formal homework.

This may include:

- activities designed to consolidate, practise or extend literacy or numeracy knowledge and skills;
- lesson based activity sheets that include the key learning areas of Maths, English, and Human Society and Its' Environment.

The recommended time period for homework is no more than fifteen minutes per day, Monday to Friday.

Homework for Years 5 and 6

All students are encouraged to read for personal pleasure on a daily basis.

Year 5 and Year 6 teachers will set formal homework. This will be varied and may include:

- activities designed to consolidate, practise or extend literacy or numeracy knowledge and skills;
- preparatory activities designed to support in independence in learning and or in class lessons;
- lesson based activity sheets that include the key learning areas of Maths, English, Science and Technology and Human Society and Its' Environment.
- Daily reading for pleasure is recommended. The recommended time period for homework is no more than twenty to thirty minutes per day, Monday to Friday.

Year 3 to Year 6

Students requesting additional work.

We suggest:

- cooking - Family Circle and Women's Weekly have some very good cookery books for young cooks;
- creative craft (a box of odds and ends)
- computer activities (the school web page has recommendations for excellent educational sites which provide free access);
- commercial educational games
- NES Books in Penrith (Educational Suppliers of a range of texts - please ensure any texts you purchase are not the current texts in use in your child's classroom)
- the local library for books, games, educational material etc

Student Welfare

Much research has been conducted into the value of homework and there are proponents with data that supports a stance for or against the implementation of homework in primary schools. What we do know is that for homework to achieve improved outcomes for children academically and emotionally it must be a positive experience for all involved.

There are times, for differing reasons, that homework may cause difficulties. Please inform the class teacher if this is the case. It is always possible to find flexible ways of dealing with situations in order to ensure we support the overall welfare of students and families.