

# Beeliar Primary School

## Homework Guidelines

### Rationale

Homework is an important component of the teaching and learning process. It strengthens home-school links, allows for practicing and consolidating and extending work done in class, teaches students to plan and organise their time and establishes regular habits of study. It is recognised, however, that homework should not impinge on students' time for play, leisure and physical activity outside of school.

### Expectations

It is to be expected that homework:

- Be a pleasurable and rewarding experience for students and parents
- Be appropriate for each student's age and ability
- Relate directly to the learning and teaching programs appropriate to the learning needs of students
- Support the development of the student as an independent learner
- Take into account technology such as computers, email and the internet without disadvantaging those students who do not have access to this technology
- Be marked promptly and accurately so students have regular feedback

The three main types of homework, which teachers may select from, are:

1. **Practice exercises** - providing students with the opportunity to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:
  - Consolidation exercise e.g. mathematics, including the memorisation of tables
  - Practicing for mastery e.g. spelling words
  - Revising information about a current topic
  - Practicing words or phrases learnt in a language other than English
  - Reading for pleasure
  - Essay writing
2. **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
  - Reading e.g. English text for class discussion
  - Researching topics for a class unit or work
  - Collecting items e.g. geometric shapes
3. **Extension assignments** - encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:
  - Writing e.g. a book review
  - Making or designing something e.g. an art work
  - Investigations e.g. science
  - Researching e.g. history, local news
  - Information and retrieval skills e.g. using a home computer to find material on the Internet
  - Monitoring e.g. advertising in local newspapers

### Procedures

- All teachers will communicate the homework requirements consistent with the school's guidelines. Parents will be advised of the class homework processes through such means as parent interviews, parent meetings and distribution of class teaching and learning statements
- Some activities require students to manage their time as some tasks will take more than one session
- The homework diary is used in years 4 – 7 to develop organisational skills and communicate with parents. There is an expectation that parents check diaries so they can support student learning and supervise research
- Communication between students, staff and parents is maintained through the e – mail, diaries, etc
- For projects over time, a check list and information will be provided to support parents and children
- Reading for pleasure on a daily basis is encouraged across all year levels

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### Years K - P

No formal homework will be set. Shared reading to your child, saying nursery rhymes and word games/activities etc is strongly recommended. Story time bags will be introduced to support the shared reading once students have settled into their routines. Pre Primary 'formal' home reading may begin if students are ready and students may practice their sounds to consolidate their learning. Occasionally a collection of readily available materials will be requested for a particular curriculum topic/theme.

### Years 1 - 3

- Practice of skills learnt at school will be on the basis of enjoyment and sharing with the family
- Oral reading, spelling, occasionally collection of materials and parent supervised research
- Recommended time allocation: On average ten to twenty minutes per session three to four times per week

### Years 4 - 5

- The emphasis will remain on children sharing their school learning experiences with their family
- Revision and practice of English and mathematical skills and knowledge will be planned at this level
- Enrichment and extension of school learning activities will be encouraged
- Recommended time allocation: On average thirty minutes per session three to four times per week

### Years 6 - 7

- Children at this level will be taught to practice effective home-study skills. E.g. homework diary, set homework time, plan, setting timelines and meeting commitments
- Revision, consolidation, enrichment and extension activities to meet individual student needs will be the basis for the homework set at this level
- Recommended time allocation: On average thirty to forty five minutes per session three to four times per week

### Homework Strategies

To ensure the success of the school's Homework Guidelines, the following recommended strategies are provided:

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
- Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the homework set
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to homework
- Alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected

Students can help by:

- Being aware of the importance of homework
- Being aware of their school's homework guidelines
- Completing homework within the given timeframe
- 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