Marlborough State School 2015

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is an important part of the school curriculum. Education Queensland supports homework and has developed a sliding scale of how much homework students in various year levels should expect. We believe that the homework provided by the school is the minimum amount of work that students should do outside of hours and that the timelines for completion are reasonable.

Purpose
Homework can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practise for mastery)
- applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue)
- pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making)
- preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information)

Types of Homework Tasks
Homework tasks for Years P/1/2 may include:

- Daily reading
- Sight words and/or phonics revision
- Spelling activities
- Number facts
- Short revision work sheets (possibly using NAPLAN-style responses)

Homework for Years 3/4/5/6 may include:

- Daily reading
- Word of the week
- Spelling and number facts/ maths activities (possibly using NAPLAN-style responses)
- Sentence writing
- Activities that contribute to the completion of class assignments and projects
- Practice for oral presentations

Homework will be distributed on a Monday. The Homework Book is to be brought to school each day and placed in homework tub. If students have questions about the homework from the night before, they are welcome to ask for help at any time. Reading books are to be completed (signed off) each night and brought to school every day. Homework will be marked on Thursday or Friday.

Reading – Each student will be provided with a reading book. These are fairly self-explanatory. The date and title of the book being read will be written in the book. Parents are encouraged to listen to their children read every night or for younger students read to them. These reading books need to come to school every day so that reading books can be changed over. When students read each night for a week they receive a raffle ticket.

Spelling words/sight words/sounds/word of the week/sentences – Depending on the year level of the child, they will either have sentences, spelling, sounds, sight words or word of the week to work on each week. For students who have spelling words, these will be related to our Words Their Way program. Spelling, sight words and sounds will be tested on an ongoing basis.
Rewards for doing homework
Every three weeks the raffle is drawn. There are also weekly prizes available from the prize bag. Bookwork awards are given out to those students who have completed their homework to a high standard.

Homework schedule (DETE – Homework – in State Schools Policy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Homework Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Generally no homework is set in Prep – at Marlborough State School homework in Prep is optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Will not exceed 1 hour per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Will not exceed 2-3 hours per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Will not exceed 3-4 hours per week</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What happens when we can’t fit homework in that week?
We understand that on some occasions it may not be possible to complete homework for family reasons. However, there are consequences for homework that is routinely not completed which may include that it is completed in lunchtime or during the Friday afternoon independent study program. If you find that your child can’t complete the homework within the time limits, but has made a genuine attempt to complete homework within the time frame please notify your child’s teacher.

What do I do if I want extra homework for my child?
We believe that one of the best ways to extend your children further is by widening their experiences. This can be done in a number of ways. Mostly it involves spending time with your children and discussing the world around them or sharing your knowledge and skills with them. It can also be by them helping to do things at home that challenge them further. They may wish to do independent research or study things they are interested in. Keeping and learning about a pet, going to the library, making a garden, reading about gardening, watching and discussing a good documentary with them, playing a new board game are more ways of developing your child’s mind and lifelong interest in learning. Taking the time to explain everyday things and answer their questions about the world fully is some of the best extension work that you can do.

Homework Tips for Parents
Try some of the following ideas to help make homework easier at home:
1. Set a regular time and a quiet place for homework.
2. Plan the work to be done and the time to be spent on each task.
3. Take short breaks between tasks.
4. Be prepared to assist and monitor. Often when children get stuck they ponder rather than ask for help. By monitoring you can quickly help a child to move on and get through the homework.
5. Read to young children and ask them to read to you.
6. Make homework a positive experience by highlighting improvements rather than difficulties.
7. Talk to the teacher if your child is struggling with the homework.