Southbrook Central SS Homework Policy

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning.

The setting of homework at Southbrook Central State School takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

Homework is supported by a weekly Homework Club offered through the school

Purpose of Homework

Homework is intended to;

- enhance student learning
- be purposeful and relevant to student needs
- be appropriate to the phase of learning (early/middle)
- be appropriate to the capability of the individual student
- develop the student’s independence as a learner
- clearly relate to class work
- enable practice of known or taught concepts

Short term to long term memory

Homework is an opportunity for students to reflect on and practice skills from their classroom program. The time gap between the end of the school day and students' homework time later that afternoon is important as it aids the transfer from class to home. Learning that may seem successful in the classroom may be lost if not revisited by the student within a medium time frame (later in the afternoon or early evening).

At Southbrook Central State School, regular homework should focus on consolidation of basic facts which will lead to fluency in Maths and English. This includes learning of number fact, phonics, sight words, reading (to an adult or independent) and spelling. Consolidation in homework will involve rote learning or ‘drill and practice’ activities aimed at automaticity or instant recall of basic facts.

Homework tasks may include:

- Daily reading to, with and by parents/ caregivers or other family members
- Daily independent reading – be coordinated across different subject areas
- Practice of taught or known concepts such as reading, phonics, sight words, spellings and number facts
- Preparation for oral presentation e.g. speaking session, look who’s talking
- Opportunities to write for meaningful purposes
- Set tasks using online programs that provide consolidating practice and/or practice of recall
Homework should not include;

- Concepts not already taught in class
- Major KLA assessment tasks
- Tasks beyond the teacher’s expectations for an individual student
- Tasks requiring close monitoring or support

In addition to set homework tasks, parents/caregivers can support children by;

- Linking maths or literacy concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- Having conversations about what is happening at school

Responsibilities

Teachers

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- Ensuring their school’s homework policy is implemented
- Setting homework consistently and regularly
- Clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
- Checking homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback
- Using homework that is revisional and directly related to class work in a consistent format
- Teaching and providing strategies that help the students’ have success, such as time management and organisational skills

Students

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by, following the values of our School Wide Positive Behaviour plan, and in particular commitment to:

- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames.
- Accepting responsibility for setting and monitoring their own learning goals
- 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

Parents and caregivers can help their children by supporting the school program:

- Supporting children when necessary in terms of time management, organizational skills, providing an appropriate workspace for their child to complete homework and talking about the homework expectations
- Contacting teacher if any concerns arise