Homework Policy

At Taranganba State School we recognise that homework provides students with opportunities to:

- consolidate their classroom learning
- establish positive behaviours for lifelong learning beyond the classroom
- involve and inform family members in their learning
- develop effective time management skills

We value homework that:

- enhances student learning
- is purposeful and relevant to students’ needs
- is appropriate to the students’ year level
- develops independence as a learner
- clearly relates to class work
- consolidates literacy and numeracy skills

GUIDELINES

Our school community recognises that the homework requirements for students may vary according to year level, a child’s individual learning needs and the classroom focus at any given time. Homework is intended to engage students in independently and may encompass/include:

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

Prep to Year 2

In Years Prep to Year 2, homework is generally not more than 1 hour per week. Many activities at home can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills. Homework tasks may include:

- daily reading with parents/caregivers or other family members
- numeracy revision
- literacy revision
- writing for meaningful purposes
- conversations about what is happening at school

Year 3 to Year 6

Homework in Year 3 and Year 4 could be up to but generally not more than 2-3 hours per week. Some homework can be completed daily or over a weekly or fortnightly period and may include:

- daily independent reading
- extension of class work – Literacy and numeracy
- Grammar, punctuation, vocabulary or morphology
- Number facts, operations and place value work
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers:
Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:
- ensuring their school’s homework policy is implemented
- setting homework on a regular basis
- clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework
- Setting homework that is directly related to class work and appropriate to students’ learning needs
- explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through homework
- considering other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework
- discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child’s homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.

Students:
Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:
- discussing with their parents/caregivers homework expectations
- returning homework consistently
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports and recreational and cultural activities.

Parents and Caregivers:
Parents and caregivers can help their children by:
- showing a positive interest in their classroom work and achievements
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home
- helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning and balance their homework with other activities.
- encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- establishing routines at home to complete homework
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children’s approach to the homework.