



Kambora Public School

Respect • Responsibility • Personal Best

Homework Policy

The Kambora Public School Homework Policy is based on guidelines laid down by the NSW Department of Education and Training. The NSW DET requires every government school to have a homework policy.

The aim of this document is to outline the purpose of homework, type of work set, organisation and student expectations.

The Purpose and Value of Homework

Kambora Public School acknowledges that homework is a valuable part of schooling and allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. It bridges the gap between learning at school and learning at home.

Homework also helps to develop research skills, time management skills and self discipline that will serve students for the rest of their lives, encouraging them to develop positive attitudes in relation to study, concentration and personal goal setting.

It is therefore the school's policy that all students should engage in homework practice and the following guidelines are laid out so that parents, teachers and students can adopt a format which is most applicable to their current need.

Homework gives parents and caregivers an opportunity to involve themselves with their child's education and be aware of the programs being taught at school. The school is not the only learning environment and recognition of this leads teachers to set work and assignments which can be done in the context of the home. While the school recognises that home study is not a replacement for school study, it encourages all students to value home study as an important aspect of life long learning.

The homework set at Kambora Public School will take into account the extra curricular activities students undertake outside school. In addition, teachers acknowledge family commitments that may impact on the amount of time available for the completion of homework.

The school recognises the place of computer technology in the 21st century and the benefits of using home computers and the internet. The school also recognises that some students do not have access to such technology and these students will not be disadvantaged when homework is set.

It is acknowledged that the most successful homework programs operating are those where homework expectations are clearly articulated to students and parents, and an ongoing partnership between the stakeholders is established.

Encouragement and support from parents and caregivers helps students to have a positive, productive approach to homework.

Types of Homework

At Kambora Public School there are three main types of homework set:

1. Practice Exercises: –
These help students with opportunities to apply new knowledge or review and reinforce new acquired skills. These exercises will include activities such as practicing spelling words, completing short writing tasks, reading and completing maths tasks.
2. Preparatory Homework: –
This type of homework provides an opportunity for students to gain background information to prepare them for future study on a particular topic, such as reading an article on the Gold Rush in preparation for a lesson in HSIE.
3. Extension Assignments:-
These encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Assignments may include writing a book review, constructing a model or completing research tasks. Students are given support and guidance at school for completion of these assignments. Assignments may include writing a book review, researching local news or retrieving items from the Internet.

Organisation and Structure

Homework is set by teachers for completion Monday to Friday.

Students are not expected to complete homework over weekends or during school holidays. However, some teachers may choose to give out a weekly homework on a Friday in response to parent consultation.

Homework may be structured on a daily or weekly basis, as contracts or as assignments depending on the needs of the students. Regardless of the specific organisation for setting homework there is an emphasis on establishing a homework routine where students become familiar with expectations and organisation.

At the beginning of each school year teachers will advise parents of their particular homework organisation.

Responsibilities

The role of the teacher is to:-

- ensure homework is related to the work being done at school
- set homework that allows students to demonstrate what they are capable of, and that challenges them to progress
- give students sufficient time for the completion of tasks
- ensure students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- help parents understand what homework is required and when it is due
- communicate with parents about areas of concern related to homework
- assess homework to determine achievement by students
- maintain student homework records
- mark students work providing feedback

- inform parents if homework is not being completed.

The role of the student is to:-

- complete homework to the best of their ability within a given time frame
- seek assistance from teachers, parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- show their homework to their parents or caregiver.

Parents and caregivers can help by:-

- Taking an active interest in your child's homework.
- Supporting your child in setting aside time each day for homework.
- Providing a dedicated place for homework and study if possible.
- Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested, and be aware of the amount of homework set.
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or your child's approach to homework.
- Encouraging your children to read and take an interest in current events.
- Alerting the school to any domestic circumstances or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked.
- If homework has been unable to be completed, write a note to the teacher letting them know you are aware of it.

Obviously children will not all work at the same rate and it is difficult to set an amount that will suit all children in a class. If a child is finishing work very quickly, parents should supervise closely to ensure that work is being completed accurately. If a child is taking longer than might be expected, any problems should be determined and assistance given or the class teacher consulted.

More detailed information and advice related to the policy can also be accessed directly at:- <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/homework.php>