HOMEWORK POLICY

Based on the work of the homework committee, a review of surrounding high school policies and the recent homework survey, the following has become apparent.

Overview

A review of local high school policies regarding homework highlights the fact that, even with recent changes in departmental policy, High Schools continue to require students, starting in year 7, to complete either set homework or daily work prior to the next lesson.

A key responsibility for primary schools is to prepare our students for entry into this secondary environment.

The department’s 2012 Research Scan states that “Most researchers conclude that for primary students, there is no evidence that homework lifts academic performance.” (1) But it also states that “No homework at all may be harmful.” (2) Consequently the academic value of homework in primary school has been shown to be questionable and what value it has seems to be negated by the stress placed on time poor families, but students benefit in other ways from doing “something”.

Homework differs from the concept of study in that homework is set by the school with an expectation that it be returned and marked. Study takes the form of voluntary review and summation of work that has been covered by the student.

Outline

The school will address its responsibility in preparation of students for high school and the expected homework and study requirements by encouraging students to develop effective time management skills. This will take the form of:

• Continuation of the K-2 home reading program into years 3-6 by use of the LiteracyPro program. This would see:
  - K-2 students continuing literacy tasks and to be issued with levelled home readers.
  - Years 3 and 4 expected to record 15 – 20 minutes of reading at least 5 times a week.
  - Years 5 and 6 expected to record 20 – 30 minutes of reading at least 5 times a week.

• The introduction of research based projects (2 per year) for all years:
  - Year 3 – classroom based (whole class) projects with teachers modelling the Information Skills Process and time management skills.
  - Year 4 – classroom based (partners) projects with teachers modelling the Information Skills Process and time management skills and students taking a more active role in the process.
  - Year 5 – classroom based (small group of 3-4 students) projects with teachers providing a scaffold for students and monitoring project timelines etc.
  - Year 6 – individual home based projects (flipped model).


Homework REQUEST BY PARENTS

Parents who believe that their child requires homework are encouraged to discuss this requirement with their class teacher who will refer them to resources.

Prepared by
Homework Committee 07/08/15

References:

NSW Department of Education and Communities. (2012). Homework Policy: Research Scan. Retrieved from:

This policy will be evaluated annually through community consultation.