

# Airly Primary School

## HOMework POLICY

### Preamble

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

### Principles

- Homework is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.
- Parents should be advised of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and new school families will be provided with a copy of the school's homework policy.
- Students benefit from completing homework regularly. Homework helps them develop organisational and time-management skills, self discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and personal responsibility for learning.
- Senior students will use homework diaries. Diaries provide a means of regular communication between parents and the school.
- Failure by students to complete homework on a regular basis should be followed up with parents.

### Successful Practice

**In the Junior Primary years (P – 2),** homework should not be seen as a chore.

Homework will:

- enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials
- mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents / caregivers or older siblings.

This will generally take 15 – 30 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during holidays.

**In the Senior Primary years (3 –6),** homework:

- should include daily independent reading. Parents will be encouraged to continue home reading practices begun during the Junior years, by listening and discussing books and reading with their children.
- may include extension of class work, Maths work, projects and assignments, written expression and research.

This will generally be 30 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during holidays.

## **Types of Homework**

Homework should:

- be appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- be interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open ended
- be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

### **Types of homework that meet these requirements include:**

**Practice exercises** – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- completing consolidation exercises for Maths – memorisation of tables
- practising spelling words
- practising words or phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English
- reading for pleasure
- story writing and other creative tasks
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising physical education skills

**Preparatory homework** – providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:

- researching topics for class work
- collecting newspaper articles
- revising information about a current topic

**Extension assignments** – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:

- writing a book review
- making or designing an art work
- completing Science investigation activities
- researching local news
- finding material on the Internet
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper

## **Expectations**

### **Parents and Caregivers can help their children by:**

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation;
- observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing;
- attending school events, displays or productions in which their children are involved;
- encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework;
- setting an example by reading themselves;
- contacting the teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with homework;
- helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources. Usually it is better to encourage children to complete homework themselves.
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities;
- checking whether homework has been set and ensuring they keep a homework diary.

### **Teachers can help their students by:**

- setting regular homework to help students establish a home study routine;
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work that are appropriate to the students' learning needs;
- giving students enough time to complete homework, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities;
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support;
- making effective use of homework diaries for senior primary students;
- helping students develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning;
- ensuring that students have good information skills;
- ensuring that parents and caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy,
- developing strategies to support parents to become active partners in homework.

## **Conclusion**

Homework can bring together children, parents, and teachers in a common effort to improving student learning. Teachers are a vital link in making this happen.

The benefits of homework begin in school. Students who complete their homework successfully improve their chances for academic success. But homework develops habits and attitudes that work to a student's advantage far beyond the classroom. Qualities like self-discipline, responsibility, and a love of learning benefit students throughout their lives.

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*HOMework*  
*POLICY*

