

## FIVE DOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

This policy statement sets out our expectations regarding homework at Five Dock Public School. It is the outcome of consultation between students, staff and parents/caregivers. The consultation process included surveys, conversations with staff, parents/caregivers and students and a homework forum held in term 3, 2012.

### Context

The NSW Department of Education and Communities' homework policy identifies homework as a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.

The Five Dock Public School community recognises the need for children to have adequate time for play and to engage in their out of school hours activities. It also values the opportunity to have quality family time. It is believed that homework should be done regularly over the week rather than be done in one sitting.

### Expectations

1. Homework requirements should be explicitly stated in term overviews and any other communication regarding homework.
2. Homework is to be done during the week and not on weekends. The exception to this could be project work.
3. There should not be any penalisation for not completing homework.
4. Regular activities (e.g.: spelling) should offer variety when practical.
5. Homework that involves projects and/or oral presentations should include rubrics and guides to ensure parents/caregivers can assist and students know what is expected.
6. Parents/caregivers should contact their child's teacher if there are problems.

### Content for year/stage levels

#### Early Stage 1/Kindergarten

- Home reading – each night up to 5 minutes. Teachers will inform parents/caregivers regarding arrangements for changing books.
- Sight words each night – up to 5 minutes as sight words are introduced.
- News preparation – up to 5 minutes on the two days prior to news day.
- Maths activities when appropriate.

*Timeframe: No more than 15 minutes in any one sitting*

#### Stage 1/Years 1 and 2

- Home reading – each night up to 15 minutes. Teachers will inform parents/caregivers regarding arrangements for changing books.
- Children participating in Reading Recovery are to focus on Reading Recovery homework and not class home reading program.
- Spelling – each night up to 5 minutes. Words need to be based on student need. Activities for spelling need to help the children learn the words and provide variety.
- Oral presentations – up the 5 minutes on the two days prior to news day.
- Two projects a year – rubrics and guides to be provided.
- Mathematics – linked to content covered in previous week or tasks, when appropriate, to support class teaching and learning program.

*Timeframe: No more than 20 minutes in any one sitting*

## **Stage 2/Years 3 and 4**

- Home reading for students reading at lower than Countdown/Level 29 – up to 15 minutes three times a week.
- Independent reading for students reading at expected level – reading for pleasure.
- Spelling words – three times a week – no longer than 10 minutes. Linked to individual needs. Competent spelling to work on words they have not been able to spell in their own writing or pretesting. Activities should be varied.
- Mathematics – linked to content covered in previous week or a weekly maths task.
- Two projects per year. Rubrics and guides to be provided.

*Timeframe: No more than 30-40 minutes in any one sitting over three sessions per week*

## **Stage 3/Years 5 and 6**

- Independent reading – reading for pleasure.
- Spelling words – three times a week – no longer than 10 minutes. Linked to individual needs. Competent spellers work on words they have been unable to spell in their own writing or pretesting. Activities should be varied.
- Mathematics – linked to content covered in previous week or a weekly maths task.
- Two projects per year. Rubrics and guides to be provided.
- All students to have a student diary to record what they need to do and when they will do it with teacher guidance. Things to remember for school to also be included (permission notes, payments).

*Timeframe: No more than 50 minutes in any one sitting over three sessions per week*

## **Communication strategies:**

- School website
- Term overviews
- School handbook

Implementation date: 30 January, 2013