



EAST BUTLER
PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY 2024

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Homework Policy

Homework should be a positive experience for children and parents, aimed at enhancing the extent to which a child benefits from their learning experiences at school.

Rationale

At East Butler PS it is our belief that homework can support higher levels of achievement by extending the time available to consolidate skills and concepts learnt at school. However, the benefit of homework does not come from pages of unrelated photocopied worksheets or unreasonable levels of parental assistance. At East Butler PS it is expected that the homework/practise will relate directly to the learning and teaching programs appropriate to the developmental needs of the student. Preparation of students for the time commitment of homework anticipated in years to come is not, in itself, a reasonable basis for setting homework. Teachers will ensure that individual classroom homework procedures are communicated clearly to parents and students.

Introduction

Studies relating to the effectiveness and value of homework report wide variations in the recommended amount of time spent on homework and the associated academic benefits. Most research findings do agree that the number of out of school hours per day spent on homework is positively related to student academic achievement but reaches a point where too much appears to be detrimental.

“Overall, it seems that some homework is better than too much or none at all, however the time on homework needs to be responsive to the student’s age and development. The research indicates that a ‘more homework the better’ view is misleading and should not be the basis for policy or practice.”

(‘Homework Literature Review’ Dept. Education and Arts Queensland– November 2004)

More recently John Hattie, a researcher in education and author who has studied over 15 years what works best for learning in schools has said:

“Homework in primary school has an effect of around zero. In high school it’s larger. (...) Which is why we need to get it right. Not why we need to get rid of it. It’s one of those lower hanging fruit that we should be looking in our primary schools to say, “Is it really making a difference?” Certainly I think we get over obsessed with homework. Five to ten minutes has the same effect of one hour to two hours. The worst thing you can do with homework is give kids projects. The best thing you can do is to reinforce something you’ve already learnt.” (Interview BBC Radio 20 August 2014).

In formulating this policy, the staff at East Butler Primary have consulted this research to develop the following guidelines for parents, family carers, students and teachers.



Guidelines


Homework should:

- Support the development of the student's independence as a learner;
- Further the partnership between school and home;
- Avoid dependence on unreasonable levels of parental assistance or resources that are not readily available to the student;
- Be set without impinging on reasonable time for family, recreational, cultural and employment pursuits relevant to the student's age, development and educational aspirations;
- Be balanced across learning areas so as to avoid stress and overload;
- Be phased in gradually and consistently as students move through the upper primary years and sustained through the secondary years;
- Be consistently applied, monitored and assessed in a whole-school approach that is responsive to individual needs and learning area requirements;
- Only be used to facilitate the achievement of learning outcomes;
- Form part of a developmental learning program that is responsive to individual needs, clearly relevant, supported by classroom practice and, where appropriate, developed in collaboration with students; and
- Be disassociated from any form of punishing students or means of securing discipline.
- Preparation of students for the time commitment of homework anticipated in years to come is not, in itself, a reasonable basis for setting homework.

Some advice to Aid Parents:

- Children need the opportunity to play and relax after school.
- Homework is best completed at a quiet time set aside for this purpose.
- Encourage and support your child to complete their homework.
- Completing homework in front of the television is not recommended.
- If possible, arrange a table with good lighting, ventilation and a comfortable chair dedicated to homework/study.
- Ask your child to explain what he/she is doing for homework. What is easy? What is difficult? What is interesting?
- Communicate with your child's teacher if you have any concerns about the homework set.
- Let the teacher know if there are any after school events or activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or collected.
- Recommended homework during in-term holidays/vacations is for the student to complete a Diary/Journal of their time away to bring back to share with the class and if possible, the student may access on-line programmes such as Study ladder. No other homework will be set.

Responsibilities of Students:

- Be aware of what homework is expected and when it is to be collected.
 - Complete homework within the given time frame.
 - Let parents or family carers know about the class homework routine.
 - Ask for help from their parents, family carer or classroom teacher when difficulties arise, including the time spent on homework.
 - Ensure that homework is of a high standard.
 - Organise their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to complete homework within set deadlines.
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Responsibilities of Teachers

- Ensure that parents, family carers and students are aware of East Butler Primary School's Homework Policy.
- Ensure that parents, family carers and students are aware of what will be expected in regard to homework. This may include information about the type of homework that will be given, when it will be given out and when it will be collected.
- Give sufficient time for students to complete their homework, taking into account whenever possible any family events and extra-curricular activities.
- Mark homework promptly, maintain homework records and provide feedback to students, parents or caregivers as needed.
- Maintain close communication with parents and family carers if there are any problems associated with homework.

Recommended Homework Practice

The guidelines below are examples only. Each classroom will have its own homework rules and routines.

Kindergarten and Pre-Primary (Monday – Thursday)

Usually, teachers will not set formal homework for these early years. Any homework set at this level should be non-compulsory, but parents are urged to encourage their children to complete activities if they can (for example-regular home reading in Pre-Primary). At this age a strong emphasis on speaking and listening is recommended to enhance the acquisition of literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills. Development of oral language skills can occur in the course of normal household activities such as:

- Shopping
- Food preparation and mealtimes
- Family outings
- Listening to stories
- Singing songs and nursery rhymes
- Playing
- Rehearsing class news
- Reading

Some classroom teachers may also send home activities related to phonics or writing (eg. sound bags, postcards etc.)

Years 1-2 (Monday – Thursday)

Homework may include:

- Regular home reading
- Reading sight words
- Spelling words
- Online games and programmes recommended by the school.
- Counting skills

Years 3-5 (Monday – Thursday)

Homework may include:

- Regular home reading
- Reading sight words

- Spelling words
- Maths revision e.g. tables
- Online games and programmes recommended by the school.
- Completing unfinished work

Year 6 (Monday – Thursday)

Homework may include:

- Regular home reading (may include library books, magazines, comics, newspapers)
- Maths problems and revision
- Online games and programmes recommended by the school.
- Research for projects and in class assignments
- Completing unfinished work.

Time

The WA Department of Education does not specify nor suggest recommended hours that should be spent on homework each night or week however research suggests that “The quality of the homework assigned is likely to be more important than the quantity”. In Victoria it is suggested that Pre-Year 4 spend no more than 30 minutes per day and Years 5-6 30-45 minutes per day. Excessive time spent on homework will not directly lift achievement for Primary students.

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