



**Welcoming All – Attaining Excellence**

# **East Victoria Park Primary School**

## **Homework Policy**

### **Preamble**

Homework should be a positive experience for children and parents, aimed at building work ethic and enhancing the extent to which a child benefits from the real life learning and the school's learning experience.

### **Purpose**

Homework is:

- ✓ Used to facilitate the achievement of learning outcomes.
- ✓ Part of a developmental learning program that is responsive to individual needs, clearly relevant and supported by classroom practice.
- ✓ A tool for reinforcement of concepts and skills for the purpose of consolidation.
- ✓ To support the development of the student's independence as a learner.
- ✓ To be determined by the teacher, in terms of content, in order to support specific classroom learning.
- ✓ To reinforce the importance of family time, recreational and cultural pursuits relevant to the student's age and development.
- ✓ To further the partnership between home and school.
- ✓ For the completion of set tasks and research where appropriate.
- ✓ Disassociated from any form of punishing students or means of securing discipline.
- ✓ Not designed to be in need of unreasonable levels of parental assistance or resources that are not readily available to the student.
- ✓ To value diversity, family life and active pursuits.

### **Rationale**

Homework can support higher levels of student achievement by extending the time available for students to consolidate skills and concepts explicitly taught, learned and practised at school.

Homework can also further school-home relationships and can assist in keeping parents informed about the student's learning program and progress.

It should be noted that preparation of students for the time commitment of homework anticipated in years to come is not, in itself, a reasonable basis for setting homework.

Homework can link real life situations to academic learning and allows students to pursue their own learning.

Homework can provide opportunities to develop life skills and encourage children to be active members of their household.

## Guidelines

1. Approximate time allocation based on four nights per week:
  - ✓ Kindergarten
  - ✓ Pre-Primary / Year 1 **up to 15 mins**
  - ✓ Year 2/3 **up to 20 minutes**
  - ✓ Year 4/5 **up to 30 minutes**
  - ✓ Year 6 **up to 40 minutes**
2. Preparation and organisational tasks in readiness for the next school day should be routine for all children. These tasks are also to be included within the approximate daily timeframe.
3. The engagement with homework is encouraged and rewarded, but the non-completion of homework is not to incur punishment.
4. Parents may choose for their child to do far less than suggested, or alternative tasks, however this needs to be done in consultation with the teacher.
5. Each teacher will have a system within the Homework framework (i.e. signing by parents, due date, etc.) that will be clearly communicated to parents during the class meetings at the beginning of each year.
6. The Homework Grid is to be completed over a one or two-week period.
7. The following is a guide to the types of homework likely to be provided at East Victoria Park Primary School:

### Years PP – 3:

- ✓ Homework Grid: Based on the work of Ian Lillico. The development of the Homework Grid is the result of extensive research into effective education. **The grid recognises the wide range of after school activities and encourages positive family interactions. Negotiated real-life tasks need to be counted as homework including housework, compiling of a shopping list for a given budget, physical activity and exploring their world.**
- ✓ Individual classes will have variations of the grid but most cells are to be retained.
- ✓ Homework is encouraged to be done during the week and not on the weekends.
- ✓ PP/1 will have one box on the grid that can be changed each fortnight. **The grid has a total of 4 boxes.**
- ✓ Year 2/3's will have two boxes that can be changed each fortnight. **The grid has a total of 6 boxes.**
- ✓ ***Constant Homework items should include:***
  - ***Home reading of teacher provided books***
  - ***Learning of sight words / sounds (Yr 2/3 Word study)***
  - ***Active citizens within their household / Real life tasks***
  - ***Numeracy (Yr 2/3)***

## Years 4 – 6:

- ✓ Homework Grid: Based on the work of Ian Lillico. The development of the Homework Grid is the result of extensive research into effective education. **The grid recognises the wide range of after school activities and encourages positive family interactions. Negotiated real-life tasks need to be counted as homework including housework, compiling of a shopping list for a given budget, physical activity and exploring their world.** Individual classes will have variations of the grid but most cells are to be retained.
- ✓ Homework Grid boxes may include:
  - Research to support class work or study projects.
  - Redefining draft work commenced in class.
  - Tasks reinforcing mathematics and/or language concepts currently being taught in class.
  - Reviewing work completed in class and posing questions, if required for the teacher (known as ‘study’).
- ✓ Year 4/5’s and 6’s will have up to four boxes on the grid that can be changed each fortnight. **The grid has 6 or 7 boxes.**
- ✓ ***Constant Homework items should include:***
  - ***Home reading***
  - ***Word Study***
  - ***Numeracy***
  - ***Housework / Active citizens within their household***
  - ***May also include class work not completed during the school day.***

*NB Music practice for those involved in the school’s instrumental program is in addition to class homework.*

## Parent’s Role

***“A parent’s role is not the teacher; it is coach and cheer squad.”***

- ✓ Children need the opportunity to play and relax after school.
- ✓ Homework is best done at a quiet time set aside specifically for homework completion. Children should have all the tools they need ready so that no time is wasted. A fully stocked ‘homework’ pencil case is recommended.
- ✓ Children should be encouraged to explain to their parents what they are doing, and why they are doing it. Parents are encouraged to ask questions about the tasks and how they link to current class work. This not only keeps the parents informed but also reinforces to the child the purpose of the task and the associated understandings
- ✓ Completing homework in front of the television is not recommended.
- ✓ Praise your child. It is easy to criticise your child when homework is not done, it is a lot harder to give applause for homework completed. It is important to remember that your words of praise, more than anything else, will motivate your child to do his/her best and to take pride in their work.
- ✓ Encourage your child to take responsibility for remembering to pack their homework in their bag the night before.