

# EDGEWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY



## 1. Purpose

This policy guides the implementation of homework at our school. For the purpose of this policy, homework is defined as any task assigned by teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours and designed to meet specific learning goals.

Our school values the educational outcomes of homework, when implemented appropriately and effectively. This policy seeks to balance the varied needs and expectations of our community in relation to homework. It also acknowledges that schools are best placed to make local decisions about homework and contextualises these decisions within the Edgeworth Public School setting.

## 2. Scope

This policy provides teachers, parents and students with guidelines so that a consistent approach to homework is followed across the whole school. The policy has been developed with reference to the NSW Department of Education's *Homework Policy PD/2002/0003/V02 April 2020 Revision*. It is suggested that the department policy be read in conjunction with the school policy.

## 3. Our School's Approach

Edgeworth Public School acknowledges that community expectations related to homework vary, and that a one-size-fits-all approach to the implementation of homework is ineffective and unachievable.

In their document *Homework Policy: Guidelines* the NSW DoE make the following recommendations regarding homework:

### **Age-specific considerations**

#### **Primary schools**

While there is little conclusive evidence of the learning benefits of homework in infants and primary schools, quality homework in these stages may help students to develop effective study habits and broaden their understandings and skills across the curriculum.

#### **Homework for Kindergarten-Year 2**

In general, students are not expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. Students may be given books to read at home, as appropriate. In Years 1 and 2 some formal homework may be set. For example, students might be asked to read and write, learn words for spelling and complete some mathematical activities.

#### **Homework for Years 3-6**

Homework in Years 3-6 may be varied and students may be expected to work more independently. Students could be encouraged to read and practise mathematical concepts learnt at school. Other homework may also be set across areas of the curriculum.

Additionally, the document notes that "in developing their Homework Policy, schools should be aware that while the Policy itself is compulsory, the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across levels are not. This approach to Homework Policy is in line with a number of factors:

- Community expectations about homework are variable
- Research regarding the value of homework is inconclusive."

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## 3.1 Successful Practice

Stage teams in consultation with their immediate supervisor (usually the Stage Assistant Principal) will evaluate homework practices at the start of each year and send information home regarding homework to parents and carers as a part of their stage information booklets.

As a general rule of thumb, the following will be adhered to:

### Early Stage 1:

EPS Home Reading Program- Students are encouraged to read every night and record it in the Home Reading Record Book. Books are changed frequently when students bring their homework folders in.

Heart Words - Simple sight words are sent home with each student at their level. Students progress through levels as required.

News topics - will begin as free choice and move to structured topics as the year progresses to support oral language and communication. Scaffolds will be provided.

### Stage 1:

EPS Home Reading Program- Students are encouraged to read every night and record it in the Home Reading Record Book. Books are changed frequently when students bring their homework folders in.

Heart Words - Simple sight words are sent home with select students if required, at their level. Students progress through levels.

News topics - Will begin as free choice and move to structured topics as the year progresses to support oral language and communication. Scaffolds will be provided.

Homework Grid- Sent home each term and will incorporate a range of key learning area activities including both online and hands on activities.

### Stage 2:

EPS Home Reading Program- Students are encouraged to read every night and record it in the Home Reading Record Book. Books are changed frequently during library time or when students bring their homework folders if applicable.

Homework Grid- Sent home each term and will incorporate a range of key learning area activities including both online and hands on activities.

Mini Projects- Students will complete a mini project each semester. This will be linked to learning occurring in class.

### Stage 3:

EPS Home Reading Program- Students are encouraged to read every night and record it in the Home Reading Record Book. Books are changed frequently during library time or when students bring their homework folders if applicable.

Homework Grid- Sent home each term and will incorporate a range of key learning area activities including both online and hands on activities.

Mini Projects- Students will complete a mini project each semester. This will be linked to learning occurring in class.

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## 3.2 Public Speaking Assessment

In preparation for Zone Public Speaking and our school Public Speaking Finals, students are asked to prepare a speech at home to present to the class. They are provided with an assessment rubric, suggested topics and a scaffold to support the creation of these speeches. This is a task that will support staff to determine the student's oral language and communication skills and abilities.

## 3.3 Consequences for failure to submit homework

No consequences will occur at a school level for failure to submit homework. This is inline with the school's belief that homework, while valuable to many, can be challenging to complete because of other commitments and an individual student's ability to submit homework should not result in unfair reward or consequence at school.

## 4. Responsibilities and obligations

Supporting students to achieve their personal best is a shared responsibility of our entire community.

### 4.1 For students

- Be aware of the importance of homework and the school's homework policy
- Complete homework set by their classroom teacher within the given timeframe
- Alert parents/caregivers to homework expectations and seek assistance when difficulties arise
- Ensure homework is of a high standard and organise their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to complete quality homework within set timelines.

### 4.2 For parents and carers

- Take an active interest in homework
- Ensure that there is time set aside for homework
- Encourage and support their child/ren to complete homework and other set tasks
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their child/ren's approach to homework
- Encourage their child/ren to read and take an interest in current events

### 4.3 For principal and teachers

Principals:

- Monitor and support teachers in the implementation of the Homework Policy
- Ensure that homework is consistent with the school's learning goals
- Support the need for balance between homework and the many other commitments in students' lives
- Provide mechanisms for teachers and parents/caregivers to communicate about homework.

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Teachers:

- Implement the school's Homework Policy
- Communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to students and parents/caregivers
- Acknowledge student effort in completing homework and provide timely and relevant feedback on achievement
- Ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for students
- Support students having difficulties with homework
- Discuss with students and parents/caregivers any developing issues regarding a student's homework
- Discuss homework practices with colleagues

## **5. Communicating this policy to the school community**

Students will be informed about this policy through classroom reminders and stage assemblies.

Parents and carers will be advised via the school newsletter, ClassDojo and School Facebook page. This policy can be accessed electronically via the school's website and in hardcopy at the school's administration office.

## **6. Complaints**

If a student, parent or carer has a complaint under this policy, they should first follow our school's complaint process. If the issue cannot be resolved, please refer to the department's guide for students/parents/carers about making a complaint about our schools.

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## 7. Review

The principal or delegated staff will review this policy bi-annually.

### 7.1 Review Date

This document was created on 21 June 2021.

This document was last reviewed on 03 May 2024.

Next review date is 03 May 2026..

Completed by: Zachary Morton and Kendall McCallum

Signature: 

Date: 03 May 2024

Signature: 

Date: 03 May 2024

Principal rel. I Name: Rebecca Baird

Signature: 

Date: 3 May 2024