



NAREENA HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Nareena Hills Public School Homework Policy 2015

Homework:

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for the practising, extending and consolidating of work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and continues to develop a range of skills in identifying and using information sources. Additionally it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline and provides parents and caregivers insights into what is being taught in the classroom.

Homework is most beneficial when:

- it reinforces and extends classwork and consolidates basic skills and knowledge.
- it is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on a student's motivation.
- parents or caregivers are involved in the formulation and implementation of the school's homework policy.
- students take responsibility for their homework, supported by their parents or caregivers.
- it is well coordinated and teacher expectations are well communicated.
- it is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study.
- teachers set suitable amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, stage of schooling and capabilities of students.
- it takes into account students' home responsibilities and extracurricular activities such as sport and performing arts activities.
- it is marked promptly and accurately.
- feedback and follow-up are provided regularly to students.
- It develops and extends the core learning skills of inquiry and independent study.

Homework Procedures:

- A guide for parents will be given early in Term 1 indicating individual teacher expectations e.g. how long to spend, standards of work, whether work is set weekly or daily etc. This may be done formally or informally as part of the meet the teacher sessions held in Term 1 each year.
- Some teachers may set homework for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Homework will not be set on holidays or weekends.
- Homework will vary according to the grade level of the student.
- Occasionally students may be unfamiliar with some content. If this occurs, please indicate with a comment on the homework sheet.
- Homework may be marked in the class with student involvement. Teachers will keep a record of completed homework.
- Students on extended leave will not be given formal individualised homework. It is suggested that if appropriate they read daily, keep a diary and learn about their holiday environment.
- Parents may be asked to sign work when completed.
- If parents do not want their children to complete homework activities (other than home reading), this needs to be addressed in writing to the child's class teacher. All students are expected to read at home daily.

The role of the teacher is to:

- Explain to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework.
- Provide quality homework activities related to classwork.
- Set a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student.
- Ensure that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed.
- Give students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, other factors.
- Mark homework promptly maintain homework records and provide feedback to students and parents or caregivers, and
- Promptly alert parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggest strategies that they can use to assist their child.

The role of the student is to:

- Complete and submit homework within the given time frame.
- Alert parents or caregivers to homework expectations.
- Seek assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise.
- Show their homework to their parents or caregivers.
- Ensure homework is of a high standard.
- Organise their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.

We believe parents and caregivers can help by:

- Taking an active interest in homework.
- Ensuring that there is time set aside for homework.
- Encouraging and supporting students to complete homework.
- Providing, where possible, a designated place and desk for homework and study.
- Encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events.
- Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set.
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their child's approach to the homework.
- Alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected.

Teachers set homework according to our school policy, however it is both the parents' and students' responsibility to see that the homework is completed.

In general, homework will consist of:

Early Stage I (Kindergarten)

Generally Kindergarten students will be expected to participate in nightly home reading (including reading a book to a parent and/or having a book read to them). They may also be given some mathematics activities to consolidate learning in class or asked to prepare to present their news to the class.

It should also be noted that all activities at home or in play can assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. It should also be remembered that self-directed play in unstructured time is important. Language and number concepts can be introduced and consolidated in many family activities, including:

- shopping
- preparation of food
- listening to stories, learning songs and nursery rhymes
- conversations about what is happening at school
- interactive video and computer programs
- reading
- library borrowing
- family outings
- collecting items
- board & card games

Stage I (Years 1 and 2)

In Years 1 and 2, more formal homework begins with nightly home reading continuing, and other optional activities set by the classroom teacher. Students may also be given a weekly activity sheet consisting of literacy and numeracy activities.

Stages 2 and 3 (Years 3 – 6)

As students' progress, they increasingly work independently on their homework, but it is important that teachers continue to provide guidance and assistance particularly in the development of study and research.

Homework includes:

- Home reading (to parent, or silently)
- Learning of basic spelling lists and spelling activity sheets
- Learning/practising of tables, mental arithmetic
- Mathematics activities
- Research as suggested by a teacher
- Writing
- Preparation of speeches etc.

Although most homework is likely to be set in the areas of English, Mathematics and Human Society and its Environment, it could be set across all areas of the curriculum including Science and Technology, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education.

The completion of assignments and work which **SHOULD** have been done in school time is **NOT** considered as homework. It is additional to the homework that has already been set

Occasionally, students are given additional homework exercises to do during the week. For example, "collect a media article on the Commonwealth Games." These range across a variety of subject areas and are at the discretion of the class teacher.

Home Reading as part of Homework

The school has a strong belief that all students should read at home on a daily basis. Research indicates children who read extensively develop more effective literacy skills. While a formalised Home Reading Scheme is not enforced across Years K-6, it is expected that every child participates in home reading every night. Books selected may be from the school, home or library. A formal K-2 Home Reading program is provided, and students in Years 3-6 are expected to select books from the school library, home or public library.

Students in younger classes generally read aloud to their parents and have a book read to them; however, students who are independent readers can read to themselves. Parents are encouraged to talk to their child about their reading: the story, its plot, the characters, or ideas to assist children to develop a deeper understanding of the book being read.

Establishing a regular routine of reading in bed for a period of time, reading a story to your child and spending quality time together before lights out can be a great family time and foster a love of reading.

Time for Homework

Homework will vary according to the grade level of the student. Approximate times for concentrated daily effort could be:

Kindergarten	5min (minimum) to 10min (maximum)
Year 1	15min (minimum) to 30min (maximum)
Year 2	15min (minimum) to 35-40min (maximum)
Years 3 and 4	30min (minimum) to 60min (maximum)
Years 5 and 6	30min (minimum) to 60min (maximum)

Reference: NSW Department of Education & Communities 'Homework Policy' – August 2000 Revised July 2006