

# Balgownie Public School Homework Policy



2024

## **Rationale**

Homework is defined by the Department of Education as, "Any task assigned by schoolteachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals."

Balgownie Public School values the opinions of its staff, students and parents/carers to inform future policies and procedures. Following surveys of students, staff and parents/carers, we have developed this policy to aim to meet the needs of our school community. To help manage school and home commitments and allow for flexibility, homework at Balgownie Public School is optional.

The homework set by teachers at Balgownie Public School aims to be communicated clearly with students, manageable and of quality. When homework is these things, it may enhance student learning.

## **Research**

According to a research scan conducted by the NSW Department of Education and Communities 2012, there is little consensus across the research literature that highlights that homework has a direct impact on raising student achievement. When considering the impacts for primary school students, researchers conclude that there is no evidence that homework lifts students' performance.

However, the department of education acknowledges in their homework policy that, "Homework is 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."

## **Quality**

Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:

- Appropriate for each student's age and ability.
- Relevant to each students' needs.
- Purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals.
- Varied and challenging, but achievable.
- Built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class.
- Clearly stated and requirements made specific during class time.
- Supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.

## **Manageability**

The quantity of homework needs to be manageable so that teachers can ensure quality and can provide feedback on completion. Homework that is manageable for students will:

- Be age appropriate.
- Consider students' outside of school hours commitments such as sports, cultural activities, tuition, part-time employment and home responsibilities.
- Consider students' access to resources and technology beyond school.
- Be clearly communicated to students.
- Provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances.

## **Communication**

Homework set will be clearly communicated to students during class time. In addition to being discussed with the students during school hours, homework may be added to Google Classroom or another online platform.

Depending on the type of homework set, teachers may provide different kinds of feedback to students. Some homework may be sighted, others given verbal or written feedback.

## **Stage homework guidelines**

Homework can look different across year and stage groups. What children can achieve independently varies according to their age and abilities.

### Kindergarten

Generally, students in kindergarten are not expected to complete formal homework. To support their learning in class, Kindergarten students will regularly be given decodable readers and sight words to practise at home. Students are encouraged to practise their reading and sight words for 10 minutes each day.

### Stage 1

In Years 1 and 2, students may be given some formal homework. Students will regularly be given decodable readers that they are encouraged to read for 15 minutes each day. To support what has been taught in class, students may be given sounds and sight words to practise at home. At times, students may be asked to complete some mathematical activities.

### Stage 2

In Stage 2, homework can vary and should be completed more independently. In Years 3 and 4 students are expected to read daily for 15-20 minutes.

Mathematical and spelling concepts learned in class may be asked to be revised at home. These may be set through various online platforms.

Learning across the curriculum may be set and this can include assignments or project-based tasks. These are expected to be completed to supplement learning within the classroom.

### Stage 3

In Years 5 and 6 homework can vary and should be completed independently. Students in Stage 3 are encouraged to read daily for 20 minutes. Selecting books of different genres will expose them to multiple language devices. Mathematical and spelling concepts learned in class may be asked to be revised at home. These may be set through various online platforms.

In preparation for High School, Stage 3 students are expected to complete assignment tasks each term. This is to encourage students to develop their time management, organisational and research skills whilst developing their study habits.

### Public Speaking

Across K-6, students are expected to engage in public speaking tasks once a semester. Students may be asked to complete their speeches at home and deliver to their classes during class time.

### **Whole School Homework Protocols**

- Homework completion is expected but not mandatory.
- All students are expected to read every night. Our school library has many suitable books for students to borrow.
- Homework will support or supplement what is taught in class.
- Feedback will be provided accordingly including being sighted by the teacher and/or verbal and written feedback.