YUGUMBIR STATE SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Yugumbir State School has a homework policy which has been developed in consultation with the school community.

We believe:

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits where appropriate.

Homework that enhances student learning:

- Is purposeful and relevant to students needs
- Is appropriate to the phase of learning (early or middle)
- Is appropriate to the capability of the student
- Develops the student's independence as a learner
- Is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work, and
- Allows for student commitment to family recreational and cultural activities.

Homework can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- Revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practicing for mastery)
- Applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue)
- Pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, research, writing, designing, making)
- Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information)

Responsibilities:

Principal

- Distribute the school homework policy to staff, students, and parents and caregivers, particularly at the time of enrolment
- Ensure the homework policy is effectively implemented across the school
- Monitor the implementation of the homework policy and review the policy as part of the triennial school review process
- Include an up-to-date school homework policy as part of their annual school reporting
**Teachers**

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- Ensuring their school's homework is implemented
- Setting homework on a regular basis
- Clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
- Checking homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback
- Using homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs
- Explicitly teaching strategies to develop organizational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through homework
- Giving consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework
- Discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework

**Students**

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- Being aware of the school's homework policy
- Discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations
- Accepting responsibility for the completing of homework tasks within set time frames
- Following up on comments made by teachers
- Seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- Organizing their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, and recreational and cultural activities

**Parents and Caregivers**

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- Reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity
- Helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- Encouraging them to organize their time and take responsibility for their learning
- Encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss local, national and international events
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities
- Contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework
**Homework Guidelines for Phases of Learning:**

In determining homework, it is important to acknowledge that students may be engaging in many different activities outside of school. These include a range of physical activities, recreational and cultural pursuits.

The following guidelines detail the amount of set homework that students might be expected to undertake at Yugumbir State School. Parents are invited to consult with a student's teacher about additional materials or practice exercises with which parents can assist their children at home.

**Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3):**

In the *Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3)* many activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills.

Homework tasks may include:

- daily reading to, with and by parents / caregivers or other family members
- linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- conversations about what is happening at school
- preparation for oral presentations
- opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.

In the Prep Year, generally students will not be set homework.

In Years 1, 2 and 3, set homework could be up to but generally not more than 1 hour per week.

**Middle Phase (Year 4 to Year 7):**

In the *Middle Phase (Year 4 to Year 9)* some homework can be completed daily or over a weekly or fortnightly period and may:

- include daily independent reading
- be co-ordinated across different subject areas
- include extension of class work, projects and research.

Homework in Years 4 and 5 could be up to but generally not more than 2 – 3 hours per week.

Homework in Years 6 and 7 could be up to but generally not more than 3 – 4 hours per week.