Homework Policy

This document outlines common, agreed processes for providing homework for students at Baringa State Primary School.

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and may 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, cultural pursuits where appropriate.

Homework that enhances student learning:
- is purposeful and relevant to students needs
- is appropriate to the phase of learning (early, middle and senior)
- 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
- allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities.

Using varied and challenging homework appropriate to students’ learning needs
Homework can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:
- revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practising for mastery)
- applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue)
- pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making)
- preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information).

RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers:
At Baringa State Primary School teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:
- setting homework on a regular basis
- setting a timeframe and completion date
- clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
- checking homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback
- 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:
- discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, 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 reading tasks at home
- helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- offering encouragement and support, showing an interest, praising where appropriate
- encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning
- 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 their child’s teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children’s approach to the homework.
HOMEWORK GUIDELINES AT BARINGA STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Baringa State Primary School we generally follow the below times when setting homework:

- Years Prep and 1 could be up to, but generally not more than, 1 hr per week.
- Years 2, 3 and 4 could be up to, but generally not more, than 1 ½ hrs per week.
- Years 5 and 6 could be up to, but generally not more than, 2-3 hrs per week.

In the **Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 1)** 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.

WHAT WILL HOMEWORK CONSIST OF AT BARINGA STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL?

Homework at Baringa State Primary School may consist of the following – digital and non-digital (including school priorities):

- reading, shared reading with parent/carer (reading material of choice e.g. novel, magazine, short stories, comic etc. however home readers may be sent home in Prep-2). Students can maintain a reading log on paper or digital
- writing (practise of genre, grammar skills taught in class)
- spelling (can be a matrix range of activities designed to learn spelling words or spelling rules)
- maths (consolidating concepts taught in class, practise of Maths Facts and/or problem solving)
- goal setting from knowledge and understanding of work undertaken in class towards improvement.

KEY POINTS

- Homework will be seen as an **opportunity to consolidate on content taught in class** rather than to learn new concepts.
- Homework will also be seen as an **opportunity to build family relationships**, not as a cause of family conflict. Students can work through homework at a convenient time of the day and location e.g. morning, afternoon or weekend; at home, with grandparents, at the local library etc.
- Stress caused by homework needs to be minimised. **Negative consequences will not be applied**. Instead, non-compliance by the student regarding homework tasks will form the basis of discussion between teacher and parents in order to resolve any difficulties.
- Homework maybe presented as non-digital (on paper) and digital e.g. The Learning Place – EdStudio, OneNote etc.