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| **Condong Public School – Homework Policy** |

**Homework Rationale?**

Homework bridges the gap between learning at school and learning at home. It reinforces work undertaken in class. It helps develop skills such as research and time management.

Homework helps to establish the habits of study, concentration and self-discipline. Parents/caregivers have the opportunity to see the progress of their child.  Homework provides challenges and stimulus to gifted and talented children.

**Aims**

* To consolidate, extend and enrich individual class programs
* To provide basis for the development of positive home-study skills
* To develop school-home relationships
* To develop a sense of responsibility, e.g. looking after and remembering own book.

**Guidelines**

For homework to be effective, it is essential that:

1. Parents be involved, providing time, suitable space, supervision and support,
2. Teachers follow up, encourage and commend good homework or provide constructive feedback,
3. Students adopt a positive attitude in the establishment of regular completion of homework, being responsible for taking it to and from school,
4. It is a purposeful learning experience, seen as an exercise which develops interest, knowledge and skills;

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The basic rules of homework are that it:

* is appropriate for each student's age and ability; and
* takes into account students' other commitments, such as sport, cultural activities and home responsibilities

**Four types of homework**

1. **Practice Exercises**help students to remember and practise newly acquired skills – such as memorising mathematical tables, practising spelling words, writing and reading for pleasure.
2. **Preparatory Homework** requires students to source and read background information to prepare them for future lessons on a specific subject.
3. **Extension Assignments**encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively.  Assignments may include writing a book review, researching local news or retrieving items from the Internet.
4. **Interest Homework** involves students in household chores, shopping, playing a musical instrument, learning a new skill, playing a board game etc.

**Homework for Kindergarten – Year 3**

In general, your child will not be expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten.  However, there are things you can do at home to help your child make the most of what they learn in Kindergarten.  Reading to children at home and involving them in family activities will greatly assist the development of their skills in literacy, numeracy and problem solving.

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Home reading will commence early in Term 1.  Class teachers will send home readers for the children to "read" with parents. Students will also bring home sight words to practice.

In Years 1, 2 and 3 some formal homework is usually set.  For example, students may be asked to complete simple online literacy or/and numeracy activities or to complete an activity sheet. Much of the homework will be in Literacy and Numeracy.  However, it can be set across all areas of the curriculum, including family time and special interest areas.

The Home Reading Program will continue in Years 1, 2 and 3.  Children are expected to read for 10 minutes each night.  Other activities including spelling should only take 5-10 minutes per night.

**Homework for Years 4 – 6**

Homework in Years 4 – 6 will be varied and students will be expected to work more independently.  However, teachers will still provide guidance and assistance to students having difficulties completing their homework.

Much of the homework will be in Literacy and Numeracy and students may be asked to complete simple online literacy or/and numeracy activities or to complete an activity sheet. However, it can be set across all areas of the curriculum, including family time and special interest areas.

Children are expected to read for at least 15 minutes each day and to spend another 15 minutes on other homework activities.

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**What can parents/caregivers do to help?**

* Take an active interest in your child's homework.
* Support your child in setting aside time each day for homework.
* Provide a dedicated place for homework and study if possible.
* Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested, and be aware of the amount of homework set.
* Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or your child's approach to homework.
* Encourage your children to read and take an interest in current events.
* Alert the school to any domestic circumstances or extra-curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked.