

# ALBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL



## HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

***This document defines the guidelines for school students of the New South Wales Department of Education for the appropriate and acceptable allocation of Homework within the Albury Public School setting.***

At Albury Public School, we believe that the role of homework in our students' lives needs to be considerate of international research, the NSW Department of Education policy and community consultation, in order to structure a school-based policy that satisfies departmental requirements and the needs of families and individual students.

Evidence from community consultation (July 2017) shows that our families' expectations about homework are varied and that families are considerate of the wellbeing of their child/ren. It is important that families are able to make their own decisions based on what is best for the family's work/life balance, wellbeing and life choices. Parents, in partnership with the school, should feel confident to make decisions around completion of homework for their child/ren based on individual needs and family beliefs and wellbeing.

*Since 2012, evidence reviews on homework in schools have been published in New South Wales and Victoria. Both reviews concluded that there was little evidence that homework improves academic performance for primary school students, but noted that homework could have other benefits, such as promoting parental engagement. There is some Australian-based evidence for the non-academic benefits of homework which shows, for example, that homework may help to develop a routine for students and self-motivated working patterns. The broader evidence base suggests that short focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school, can be effective in improving students' achievement, but this is limited for primary age students. Overall the general benefits are likely to be modest if homework is more routinely set.*

(Evidence for Learning- Homework, Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, NSW DoE).

It is the expectation of this school that some learning tasks or experiences will be set for students to complete at home. Tasks will be relevant, meaningful and based on current class work. It is the expectation, that students be reading every night as part of their homework routine. Parents/Carers are encouraged to speak to their child's classroom teacher if they need to make alternate arrangements for the completion of homework, depending on their individual family circumstances.

## **Aim of Homework at Albury Public School:**

To reinforce skills taught in the classroom.

## **Outcomes**

Students will:

- ✓ consolidate skills required for learning so that more engaging, challenging and higher order tasks can be accessed and explicitly taught at school;
- ✓ revise concepts being taught in the classroom;
- ✓ establish habits of study, concentration and self-discipline;
- ✓ plan and organise their time and
- ✓ become more responsible for their own learning.

## **'Ideal' Homework**

The basic rules of homework require that it;

- ✓ be appropriate for each student's age and ability;
- ✓ take into account students' other commitments, such as sport, downtime and home responsibilities and
- ✓ takes into account technology such as computers and the Internet so that students without access are not disadvantaged.

## **General Considerations**

- ✓ 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. Talk about books, read together and make reading an enjoyable, shared activity.
- ✓ Homework will be explained in class.
- ✓ Teachers will set suitable amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, stage of schooling and capabilities of students.
- ✓ Homework should be purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the student's motivation.
- ✓ Whilst homework is designed for students to complete independently, parents and carers are encouraged to be involved with their child's homework. Also, parents are encouraged to provide an environment and routine at home that fits their family and homework requirements/expectations.
- ✓ All homework is to be marked by the teacher.
- ✓ Should a child have difficulty completing his/her homework within the suggested time frame, then it is recommended that the parent/guardian see the child's teacher to discuss the matter further, or provide a note explaining the circumstances.
- ✓ Our school recognises that it is important for students to have time for play, the Arts, leisure and physical activities outside of school. As such, parents/carers are encouraged to speak to their child's teacher if they need to make alternate arrangements for homework.
- ✓ Homework will not be set for completion over a weekend or holiday period nor will it be given in the first or last week of any term.
- ✓ Assessment tasks will not be given as homework.
- ✓ There will be no consequences, positive or otherwise, for the completion or non-completion of homework. Example- no Merit Certificates or Super Stars will be awarded for completing homework.
- ✓ Homework completion checklists will not be displayed in classrooms nor recorded on academic reports.

## Homework for Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, students will be given home readers to assist the development of their decoding and comprehension skills. Readers will be levelled to suit individual needs. Students are not expected to complete any other formal homework. No assignments/projects will be set for Kindergarten students.

## Homework for Year 1 and 2

In Years 1 and 2, students will be given home readers (readers will be levelled to suit individual needs). Students may be required to bring a regular News item to share with their class. There will be no assignments/projects set for Years 1 or 2 students.

## Homework for Years 3 - 6

Homework in Years 3 - 6 will be varied and students will be expected to work more independently. Teachers will provide guidance and assistance to students having difficulty completing their homework.

Activities will be set, in addition to home reading, to help students to consolidate newly acquired skills – such as memorising multiplication tables, completing mathematical tasks or practising spelling words. Most of the homework will be in English and mathematics. However, it can be set across all areas of the curriculum e.g science, history and geography. Public speaking opportunities or writing competitions will be offered throughout the year. Class time will be allocated to the completion of these tasks however, consolidation and/or refinement may be required at home. Other than this, there will be no compulsory assignments/projects set for Years 5 or 6 students.

## Homework Duration

Homework is generally set from Monday to Thursday. The following times for each grade are given as a guide to the length of time each year group should spend on homework. Reading is in addition to these times. Until a child can read, this may take the form of reading by the parent to the child.

Kindergarten – 10 minutes reading only

Year 1 – up to 40 minutes

Year 2 – up to 40 minutes

Year 3 – up to 60 minutes

Year 4 – up to 60 minutes

Year 5 – up to 80 minutes

Year 6 – up to 80 minutes

These times are a guide for the amount of time students should spend on their homework each week.

## What can parents/caregivers do to help?

- ✓ Encourage your children to read and discuss the meaning of stories and words.
- ✓ Encourage your child to take an interest in current events and discuss their thoughts.
- ✓ Expose them to a broad range of vocabulary for use in speaking, reading and writing.
- ✓ Take an active interest in your child's homework.
- ✓ Support your child in setting aside time each day for reading.
- ✓ Provide a dedicated place for homework.
- ✓ Communicate with teachers any concerns about homework or your child's approach to homework.
- ✓ Alert the school to any circumstances or extra curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked.

At Albury Public School we strive to support all students to achieve their personal best by working in close partnership with parents/carers.