



Tallong Public School

Homework Policy

Revised, January 2025

TALLONG PUBLIC SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale

Homework is defined as any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals.

Students will also participate in a range of activities and have diverse experiences outside of school hours that may enhance their learning. Experiences and activities at home that help to create a rich learning environment for children are to be encouraged.

The Research

'Research scan was undertaken by the NSW Department of Education and Communities in 2012.

Research scan summarises the benefits and the drawbacks of homework, considers strategies to maximise the benefits, and examines in detail whether time spent on homework results in improved student achievement. The roles of parent involvement and socioeconomic status are also considered.

There is little consensus in the literature as to whether homework raises student achievement. Most researchers, however, conclude that for primary students, there is no evidence that homework lifts academic performance. Any revision or development of a Homework Policy should be read in conjunction with the latest research on homework.'

NSW DoE Homework Policy, 2012

Policy requirements

The NSW Department of Education's policy website specifies that each school is to develop a Homework Policy.

A school's Homework Policy should be:

- relevant to the needs of students
- developed in consultation with key school community stakeholders including teachers, parents/ caregivers and students.
- communicated to staff, students, parents/caregivers, particularly at the time of student enrolment.

In developing their Homework Policy, schools should be aware that while the Policy itself is compulsory, the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year levels are not.

This approach to Homework Policy is in line with a number of factors:

- community expectations about homework are variable
- research regarding the value of homework is inconclusive
- schools are best placed to make decisions about homework in consultation with their communities.

Quality

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

- appropriate for each student's age and ability
- relevant to each student's 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 explicit during class time
- supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.

TALLONG PUBLIC SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Manageability

The quantity of homework needs to be manageable so that teachers can ensure quality, and can provide feedback to students on completion.

Homework that is manageable for students will:

- be age appropriate
- consider student's outside of school hours commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition, part-time employment and home responsibilities
- take into account student's access to resources and technology beyond school
- be clearly communicated to students
- provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances.

Principal/Executive

- Develop a Homework Procedure in consultation with their school community
- Communicate the Homework Procedure to staff, students and parents/caregivers
- Monitor and support teachers in the implementation of the Homework Procedure
- Ensure that homework is consistent with the school's learning goals
- Support the need for balance between Homework and the many other commitments in student's lives
- Provide mechanisms for teachers and parents/caregivers to communicate about homework
- Recognise that some parents/caregivers may not agree with the school policy on homework.

Teachers

- Implement the school's Homework Policy
- Communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to students and parents/caregivers
- Acknowledge student effort in completing homework and provide timely and relevant feedback
- Ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for students
- Discuss with students and parents/caregivers any developing issues regarding a student's homework
- Discuss homework practices with colleagues

Implementation

TALLONG PUBLIC SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

While there is little conclusive evidence of the learning benefits of homework in the Primary school years, quality homework may help students to develop effective study habits and broaden their understanding and skills across the curriculum.

Kindergarten-Year 2

In general, students are not expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. Students may be given books to read at home, as appropriate.

In Years 1 and 2 some formal homework may be set.

Tallong Public School recommendations

Kindergarten: Daily home reading and sounds and words activities in the InitialLit Home Reading diary; parent/carer reading to child using a variety of picture books; Mathletics online (approximately 10 minutes daily).

Year 1 and 2: Daily home reading and practice reading the 'tricky words' in the InitialLit Home Reading diary; daily parent/carer reading to child using a variety of picture books, chapter books and information books; Mathletics online (approximately 10 minutes daily).

Years 3-6

Homework in Years 3-6 may be varied and students may be expected to work more independently. Students could be encouraged to read and practise mathematical concepts learnt at school. Other homework may also be set across areas of the curriculum.

Tallong Public School recommendations

Years 3 and 4: Regular home reading; Mathletics online (approximately 15 minutes daily).

Years 5 and 6: Regular home reading; Mathletics online (approximately 15 minutes daily).

Policy review

The policy will be monitored, with evaluation and review in 2024 in collaboration with TPS teaching staff and parents/carers.

Michelle Davy

Principal

May, 2022

Additional homework resources:

NSW DOE: Helping your primary school child with homework

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/learning/homework/helping-your-primary-school-child-with-homework>

NSW DoE: Maths Trains Brains

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/everyday-maths/primary?q=>

NSW DoE: Digital Learning packs

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home/learning-at-home/2022-digital-learning-packs/primary>

Australian Government: Learning Potential

<https://www.learningpotential.gov.au/search?age=25>

Five from Five Parent Resources

<https://fivefromfive.com.au/parent-resources/>

Mathletics

<https://www.mathletics.com/au/>