Talara Primary College
Policy: Homework

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline to the whole school community the philosophy, scope and implications of homework at Talara Primary College.

Consultation

This policy was drafted by the Heads of Curriculum in consultation with the administration team, the curriculum team, the whole school teaching team and the parent body. It was endorsed by the administration team, the whole school teaching team and the Parents and Citizens Association in semester one of 2005.

PHILOSOPHY

We value for all students the development of habits of self-regulation in their learning so that they are able to become life-long learners.

As such, homework is included as an integral part of the formal curriculum at TPC as it commits to:

- involving parents as knowledgeable and engaged partners of the school curriculum and their child's learning.
- developing student responsibility for their own learning
- developing awareness of strategies to scaffold student learning and to monitor their progress
- raising awareness of student's own learning style and ability to use this to manage their own learning
- providing opportunities to transfer learning from the classroom as a basis for life long learning
- allowing students to consolidate and evaluate what they know and can already do from their engagement in learning activities at school

SCOPE

Teachers working within the TPC Curriculum Planning Framework are responsible for selecting a set of routine elements that are most suitable as homework for their class, year level and where appropriate individual students.

This set of homework routines becomes part of their integrated unit plan which is used to develop explicit learning experiences to enhance student learning outcomes. This plan is displayed for communication to the parent body in all classrooms.

Curriculum emphasis for homework may include a combination of:

- numeracy skill consolidation
- literacy skill consolidation including Home Reading (See Home Reading Policy)
- integration of homework tasks related to current unit of work – noting that these may have different timelines to other homework tasks.
Suggested time allocation for homework is:

**Years 1-3** – between 10 and 15 minutes nightly (Monday through Thursday) or as a weekly homework contact of no more than 1 hour in total.

**Years 4-5** – approximately 20 minutes nightly (Monday through Thursday) or as a weekly homework contact of no more than 80 minutes in total.

**Years 6-7** – no more than 30 minutes nightly (Monday through Thursday) or as a weekly homework contact of no more than that 2 hours in total.

It is recognised that valuable learning occurs in the many after school sports and clubs in which children are involved in and that the weekly homework contract may suit some families. If required individual families may negotiate a different time schedule with teachers for completion of homework.

**IMPLICATIONS**

**For Students**
It is an expectation that students at TPC;
- complete homework tasks to the best of their ability
- respond to feedback that may be received from their teacher.

**For Teachers**
It is an expectation that teachers at TPC;
- select a set of homework routines as part of their integrated unit plan
- provide students with appropriately designed homework
- Provide for the diverse range of learners through varying levels of homework.
- correct or supervise the correction of homework and provide feedback to the students about the homework they have completed.

**For Parents**
The Teaching Team of Talara Primary College believes that;
- education begins at home - parents and caregivers are the first and most influential teachers of their children and
- students learn better when parents and schools work together.

With these beliefs in mind we encourage parents to supervise their child’s homework tasks. In doing so parents will be;
- taking advantage of opportunities provided to parents to be knowledgeable about and engage with their child in the school curriculum
- motivating their children to value learning
- helping with their child’s learning and behavioural development
- respecting and supporting the implementation of school policies

*This policy has been written after the review of “Homework Literature Review. Summary of Research Findings” (Education Queensland: 2004)*