Rationale

“Schools, in consultation with their communities, are required to develop a school homework policy relevant to the needs of their students.” DEC Homework Policy

In line with Department of Education and Communities Homework Policy, Kendall PS has reviewed and updated the school Homework Policy. This policy has been developed in response to:

- concerns raised regarding the content, structure and procedures surrounding the implementation of homework at Kendall PS
- data gained from a survey implemented in 2012
- teacher concerns regarding the great variance of parental expectations for homework

What is Homework?

“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” DEC Homework Policy Guidelines.

It is compulsory for schools to develop a Homework Policy, however the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year levels are not.

In consultation with the community and staff the following statements apply to the Kendall Public School Community:

- homework tasks are valued
- there is an acceptance that parental expectations are varied and it is challenging to provide an approach to homework that all parents and caregivers will be satisfied with
- there is a desire for a consistent approach across the school to assist with common procedures eg day of the week that homework is administered and collected
- there is a common belief that there should be a balance between homework and other activities such as sporting activities, family time, personal interests and play

Education Benefits of Homework

Research has been shared with the Kendall Public School community via the School P&C, School Newsletter and School Website.

“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” DEC Homework Policy Guidelines

“Homework must be purposeful and relevant to student needs and should not jeopardise the right of children to enjoy a balanced lifestyle” (Dixon, 2007)
Policy Statement

This Homework Policy is intended to clearly define the purpose of Homework, how it will be implemented and communicated and what the responsibilities of each stakeholder are.

At Kendall Public School teachers will provide the opportunity for students to complete Homework activities to:

- foster the development of positive learning behaviours and work habits
- promote and support a developing love of reading
- provide for consolidation of basic skills
- promote students’ interests, learning styles and creative learning
- support positive and interactive parent / child learning opportunities where parents have the opportunity to become involved in student learning and role model positive attitudes towards learning
- promote hot topics / key focus areas whereby parents are informed of weekly classroom content and ‘big ideas’
- foster consolidation and enrichment whilst not impeding upon students’ access to extra curricula activities and interests

Time Devoted to Homework and Stage Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Time Devoted</th>
<th>Basic Skills</th>
<th>Reading Log</th>
<th>Learning Journal</th>
<th>Student Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kindergarten</strong></td>
<td>No formal expectations</td>
<td>Recommended activities include Home Reading and support of sound work.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stage 1</strong></td>
<td>Up to but no more than 15 minutes per day</td>
<td>Basic Skills</td>
<td>Reading Log</td>
<td>Learning Journal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stage 2</strong></td>
<td>Up to but no more than 20 minutes per day</td>
<td>Basic Skills</td>
<td>Reading Log</td>
<td>Learning Journal</td>
<td>1 Student Project during the year designed to promote independent learning and foster student interest areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stage 3</strong></td>
<td>Up to but no more than 30 minutes per day</td>
<td>Basic Skills</td>
<td>Reading Log</td>
<td>Learning Journal</td>
<td>1 Student Project during the year designed to promote independent learning and foster student interest areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During Semester 2, Year 6 students will be exposed to a varying homework model that will assist in preparing students for High School expectations.
Implementation

**Homework at Kendall Public School**

*Homework will be educationally beneficial and will meet the realistic expectations of students, teachers, parents and caregivers.* DEC Homework Policy

Homework content will vary from class to class depending on the learning stage of the students and class focus areas, however the following aspects will be consistent:

- Day distributed and collected
- Inclusion of weekly ‘hot topics’
- Opportunity for reflective and creative learning tasks (Learning Journal)
- Inclusion of personal learning needs (only where required)
- Inclusion of relevant websites to consolidate of basic facts

What will vary:

- Time allocation recommendation for Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3.
- Suggested Open ended tasks to assist students to develop skills to reflect on their own learning
- Format for Stage 3 may vary within the year, especially in Year 6 to assist in preparation for Homework assignments in High School

**Responsibilities of the school, teachers, parents / caregivers, students**

_School homework policies must be communicated to staff, students, parents and caregivers, particularly at the time of student enrolment._ DEC Homework Policy

**Teachers will:**

- assist students in utilising and understanding the Homework format at Kendall Public School
- provide homework to students on Mondays with guidance for completion
- provide additional information to parents when requested
- collect homework on Fridays and provide students with feedback on homework completion and progress
- provide parents with a copy of the Kendall Public School Homework Program Parent Pamphlet.

**Students will:**

- participate in class sharing of Learning Journals and seek support from teachers where necessary

**Parents will:**

- communicate any concerns or problems regarding homework to their child’s class teacher
- support students to participate in homework activities
- support students by promoting independent and creative learning
Implementation

To be noted:

- Teachers at Kendall PS promote and encourage the completion of homework. Students who do not complete homework will NOT be disciplined and will not be disciplined at parent request.
- Teachers will provide advice to parents requesting additional homework eg relevant websites, books etc but will not provide additional work or formally assess additional work completed at home. However, students electing to complete interest projects at home will be welcome to share their work findings with their class.
- No homework will be distributed in Week 1 or the last week of each term. Term 4 homework will end in Week 6.
- A homework grade will not be included on student progress reports but relevant comments may be included in the General Comment area.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be continually evaluated for effectiveness. Strategies will include:

- teacher and student discussions
- collection of student participation data
- parent discussions
- inclusion of homework participation in Teacher / Parent interviews
- 2013 Formal Homework Survey

Useful Resources

Student Reading is highly valued as part of the Kendall Public School Homework Program. The following resources are available to access literature to promote student reading:

- The School Library
- The Local Library
- Premier’s Reading Book Lists
- Class Teacher