

Buronga Public School

1-15 Chapman Street Buronga

03 5023 2260



Buronga-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

www.buronga-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Rationale

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.

Policy Statement

Students are provided with relevant and purposeful homework activities and are encouraged to complete set task within a time frame. The purpose of homework at Buronga Public School is to establish effective work habits, consolidate and practise learning experiences from the classroom and develop knowledge in preparation for further educational experiences.

Whilst all students are actively encouraged by the class teacher to complete homework activities, students will not be penalised for not completing homework.

Implementation

Communication

Class teachers will inform parents/care givers if students do not complete homework for a sustained period of time (three weeks) via a written communication on school letterhead. The purpose of the letter is to inform parents/carers that homework is not been completed. No further follow up is required, unless requested by the parent.

Homework Quality

- 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.

Homework tasks should be assigned by teachers with a specific, explicit learning purpose. On completion, teachers should acknowledge student effort and provide feedback related to student learning.

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

Age Specific Guidelines

Homework for Kindergarten-Year 2

In general, students are not expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. Students will be given home reading activities as appropriate and optional writing tasks.

In Years 1 and 2 some formal homework will be set. Students will complete home reading activities, writing tasks, including spelling high frequency words and mathematical tasks to consolidate work completed in class.

Homework will generally not exceed 15 to 20 minutes per day.

Homework for Years 3/4

Homework will begin to vary and students will be expected to work more independently. Students will be asked to read each night, practice writing skills, including spelling and consolidate mathematical concepts taught in class. Students will be introduced to completing short projects and assignments as part of ongoing homework tasks. Projects and assignments will relate to work being studied in class from various Key Learning areas

Homework will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day.

Homework 5/6

Homework tasks will become more varied and students will be expected to work more independently. Homework tasks will necessitate students to apply knowledge and skills requiring higher order thinking, rather than having a skill based focus. Tasks may include projects, assignments, written responses, research activities, investigations, study skills as well as consolidation of class work when required.

Homework will generally not exceed 40 minutes per day.

Responsibilities Principals

- Develop a Homework Policy, in consultation with their school community
- Communicate the Homework Policy to staff students, parents/caregivers

- Monitor and support teachers in the implementation of the Homework Policy
- Ensure that homework is consistent with the school's learning goals
- Support the need for balance between homework and the many other commitments in students' 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 on achievement
- Ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for students
- Support students having difficulties with homework
- Discuss with students and parents/caregivers any developing issues regarding a student's homework
- Discuss homework practices with colleagues

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- Encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation.
- Observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing.
- Attending school events, displays or productions in which their children are involved.
- Encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework.
- Setting an example by reading themselves.
- Contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with homework.
- Helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources. Usually it is better to encourage children to complete homework themselves.
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities.

☐ Reading books sent home by teachers. Discussing their child's response to the book

Monitoring, Evaluation & Review

Buronga Public School Homework Policy will be reviewed every two years in consultation with the school community to ensure the changing needs of students and families are considered.

Bibliography

Public Schools NSW Homework Policy

February 2018

Happy Students – Successful Students