



FRENCHVILLE STATE SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale

It is a legislative requirement that all Queensland schools have a homework policy, developed in consultation with the School Community. Frenchville State School in conjunction with the school community has conducted a review of homework practices, guidelines and policies.

Homework at Frenchville SS is designed to reinforce the child's acquisition and mastery of core literacy and numeracy skills, cultivating a lifelong learning process. The setting of homework takes into account the need for a balanced lifestyle with time for family, recreation and cultural activities.

General Principles - Homework at Frenchville State School

At Frenchville State School we recognise that homework should be:

- Purposeful and relevant to student's needs
- Appropriate to student's phase of learning and capability
- Supportive of the development of the student's independence as a learner
- Balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- Checked regularly by teachers, providing timely and practical feedback.

Core Homework Activities

Through the consultation process, the following were identified as core homework activities:

Core Homework Activities	Prep	Year 1/2	Year 3/4	Year 5/6
Daily Reading – Reading Knights	✓	✓	✓	✓
* Letter/Number Recognition & Study	✓	As required	As required	As required
* Sounds	✓	✓	As required	As required
* Sight Words	✓	✓	As required	As required
Spelling		✓	✓	✓
Number Facts		✓	✓	As required
Project/Research based Assignments				✓
Max Total Time on Homework each week	1 hr	1 hr	1 1/2 hrs	2 hrs

* The acquisition of these particular core skills is sequential. Students will be working at a level that is relevant to their learning needs.

Homework Guidelines:

The following points were identified in consultation with school community as critical in the effective implementation of homework at Frenchville SS:

- Expectations for homework are clearly set out at the start of each term via letter or email.
- Homework will be set for a week with start day and completion date clarified in expectations.
- Homework will run over a weekend to allow flexibility in family commitments.
- Homework will be focussed on basic literacy and numeracy, as per core Homework Activities.
- Weekly list for spelling and number facts will be made explicit at start of each term and linked directly to classroom curriculum. Modifications may need to be made as required to meet needs of individual students.
- Research and project based activities, directly linked to curriculum enable development as independent learners.
- Consistency in expectations and implementation across the year level.
- Recognition of physical, leisure and cultural activities outside of school.
- Parental understanding of teaching strategies required by students in completing homework.

How can we assist with Homework?

Parents and Caregivers:

Many activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills. Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- ❖ Showing a positive interest in their classroom work and achievements.
- ❖ Encouraging them to read and reading to them.
- ❖ Talking with and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity.
- ❖ Helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources.
- ❖ Encouraging them to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events.
- ❖ Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities.
- ❖ Contacting the class teacher with any questions or concerns about homework.

Teachers:

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- ❖ Checking homework regularly and providing timely and useful feedback.
- ❖ Using homework that is varied and appropriate to students' learning needs.
- ❖ Explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practise these strategies through homework.
- ❖ Giving consideration to other academic, cultural and personal development activities (school based or other) that students may be engaged in.
- ❖ Discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.

Students:

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- ❖ Discussing with their parents or caregivers the homework expectations.
- ❖ Accepting responsibility for the completion of tasks in the set time frames.
- ❖ Seeking assistance when difficulties arise.
- ❖ Organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity, sports, recreational and cultural activities.