



# Homework Policy

"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, organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information sources. Additionally it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline." *NSW Department of Education and Communities, Homework Policy, June 2012*

Homework is an important part of the home-school partnership which supports young people while they learn. It is of greatest value if it involves students, their families and the school interacting positively.

## Policy Statement

This homework policy has been developed in consultation with the school community.

At Karangi Public School we believe that homework should:

- Be a time for positive interaction between family members.
- Allow for positive communication between the school and home to occur.
- Vary in the amount given and time needed to complete according to the grade level and ability of each student.
- Not be viewed by teachers, students and parents as a device for securing discipline.
- Only be completed during week days (Monday – Thursday) during a school term, not be done on weekends.
- Encourage the development of independent study habits in students.
- Focus mainly on the practice of reading skills.

## Implementation

Home reading should be the main focus of homework.

Each week night (Monday – Thursday) we encourage the follow amounts of reading to be undertaken at home. This may include a child listening to a book being read to them, a child reading to a parent, grandparent, other adult or older sibling or a child reading silently to themselves. Reading can be in any form which engages your child.

- Kindergarten- 10 minutes
- Stage 1- 15 minutes
- Stages 2 and 3- 20 minutes.

Formal and informal homework will be given to students on Monday of each week and should be returned on Friday of that week.

All students are encouraged to complete as much of the homework set as is possible for them taking into consideration individual ability and also commitments the student/family have outside of school hours. Our school recognises the importance of students having time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

## **Time Guidelines**

**Please note:** The suggested times given below include the expected home reading times as outlined above.

- Kindergarten -15 minutes per night (Eg: 60 minutes per week). Apart from take home reading, no formal homework will be given to Kindergarten during Terms 1 and 2 of each year. During Terms 3 and 4 a small amount of formal homework will be set.
- Stage 1 –20 minutes per night (Eg: 80 minutes per week)
- Stage 2 –25 minutes per night (Eg: 110 minutes per week)
- Stage 3 - 30 minutes per night (120 minutes per week)

## **The Teachers Role**

Teachers need to ensure that:

1. Homework is set each week.
2. Homework is marked and returned to students within a reasonable time period.
3. Homework provided is relevant and either consolidates, extends or allows for practice of work which has been covered in the classroom.
4. They are available to speak to students and/or parents when a concern about homework is raised.

## **The Parent's Role**

Parents can help greatly by showing interest in and giving a small amount of assistance by:

1. Seeing that your child brings homework home and returns it each week, supporting their child in developing and reinforcing organisational skills.
2. Providing a regular time and place where your child can work free from interruption (not in front of the T.V.).
3. Being available to hear reading or read to your child and briefly test spelling and maths facts if required.
4. Assisting your child when necessary;
5. Encouraging your child to show you completed homework and give honest feedback;
6. Praising your child for their efforts

## **The Students Role:**

Students should:

1. Ensure they collect and return homework each week.
2. Attempt to complete homework to the best of their ability.
3. Seek assistance from a teacher or parent/caregiver when this is required.

If homework becomes stressful for families and/or students, parents are actively encouraged to make contact with the classroom teacher to discuss the matter as soon as possible. Homework requirements for individual students can be discussed and an alternate arrangement agreed upon by the parent and classroom teacher.

## **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

This policy will be distributed to all staff and parents. Students will also be made aware of the policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the staff and parent body every 2 years.

Date for review January 2017.

Reviewed March 2016