



CRONULLA SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Homework is a purposeful learning experience. It will consolidate, extend and enrich the school program and promote home study habits in children in an environment of mutual support from teachers, parents and caregivers.

Homework:

- is a valuable part of schooling
- allows for practicing and consolidating work done on class
- provides training for students in planning and organizing time
- establishes habits of study and self-discipline
- strengthens home-school links
- provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom.

Homework is most beneficial when:

- it reinforces class work and consolidates basic skills and knowledge but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the student's motivation
- students take responsibility for their homework, supported by their parents or caregivers
- it is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study
- teachers set regular amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, stage of schooling and capabilities of students
- it takes into account students' home responsibilities and extracurricular activities such as clubs, sport and part-time employment
- it is marked promptly and accurately
- feedback and follow-up are provided regularly to students

At Cronulla South Public School, parents will be informed at the beginning of the year of the particular expectations of their child's teacher concerning homework. A common approach will be adopted across each grade or stage.

Homework will be set on a weekly basis so as to allow students and parents to integrate the homework schedule into other regular family commitments.

A parent, caregiver or other appropriate person should supervise and support the completion of homework.

All students will be encouraged to complete homework. Parents are encouraged to sign completion of homework. If a student is experiencing difficulty completing homework tasks the teacher will inform the parents and discuss the issue with a view to resolving any difficulties.

Each teacher will keep a record of set homework and provide feedback for students on their completed homework.

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school. At Cronulla South Public School, the following is a guideline for parents and caregivers regarding homework expectations.

Year	Homework Activities	Time per Night
Kindergarten	Formal homework: beginning Term 2, Phonic sounds & pictures; parents reading to children; Term Home Reading	5 - 10 minutes
Year 1	Home Reading; practice spelling works; counting	10 – 15 minutes
Year 2	Home Reading; practice spelling works; class revision Number facts	15 – 20 minutes
Years 3 & 4	Home Reading; practice spelling words; class revision	20 – 30 minutes
Years 5 & 6	Home Reading; practice spelling words; class revision Preparation for study topics	30 – 40 minutes

The three main types of homework are: Examples:-

Practice exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- consolidation exercises e.g. maths, including memorization of tables
- practicing for master e.g. spelling words
- revising information about a current topic
- reading for pleasure

Preparatory homework – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- reading
- researching topics for a class unit of work
- collecting items e.g. geometric shapes

Extension assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- writing e.g. a book review
- making or designing something e.g. an art work
- investigations e.g. science, social science
- researching e.g. history, local news
- information and retrieval skills e.g. using a home computer to find material on the Internet
- monitoring e.g. advertising in particular newspapers

Kindergarten – Year 2 (Stage 1)

Generally teachers will not set formal homework in the earliest year of Stage 1. However, all activities at home or in play can assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. It should also be remembered that self directed play in unstructured time is important. Language and number concepts can be introduced and consolidated in many family activities, including:

- shopping
- preparation of food

- listening to stories, learning songs and nursery rhymes
- conversations about what is happening at school
- interactive video and computer programs
- reading
- library borrowing
- family outings
- collecting items

Years 3 – 6 (Stages 2 & 3)

Although as students progress they increasingly work independently on their homework, it is important that teachers continue to provide guidance and assistance particularly in the development of study skills. It is also important that students have the opportunity to experience different types of homework and that the amount of time students' are expected to work on homework is realistic. Although most homework is likely to be set in the areas of English, Mathematics and Human Society and its Environment, it could be set across all areas of the curriculum.

Parents and caregivers can help by:

- encouraging and supporting students to complete homework
- encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events with possible discussion concerning the events
- communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.

Teachers can help by:

- ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy
- providing quality homework activities related to class work
- setting a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student
- ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- giving students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations and extracurricular activities
- marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers
- alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework.

Students can help by:

- being aware of the importance of homework
- completing homework within the given time frame
- seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- showing their homework to their parents or caregivers
- organizing their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.