1. Rationale:
1.1 Homework should be viewed as an integral part of the educational experience. Sensibly devised homework with sound educational principles in mind can assist children's learning.

2. Aims:
2.1 Homework is useful when:
- it gives children the chance to consolidate what they have learnt at school.
- it allows for the fact that children learn and work at different rates and have different needs.
- it increases children's confidence and enjoyment in learning.
- it gives parents opportunities to encourage, express approval and relate positively to their children.
- it develops productive long term habits of learning and planning.
- it links what is happening at school with the home environment.
- it involves parents and/or other family members in enjoyable and relevant learning activities with the child.

3. Implementation:
3.1 Teachers can expect children to spend some time each week in reading, finishing work and following up lines of enquiry.
3.2 Children from years Prep to 2 will not be set formal homework but will be expected to be doing the above.
3.3 Pupils from Years 3 - 6 may be given regular set homework tasks of up to 30 minutes in duration.
3.4 Teachers will supervise correction of set homework and provide appropriate feedback.
3.5 The amount and type of homework set will be decided by individual teachers according to the following broad guidelines:
- Teams of teachers will develop an agreed homework procedure so that homework timelines and expectations are consistent across a year level.
- Teachers will communicate the agreed homework procedure to parents.
- In general, children will be given more than one night to complete set homework tasks except where the task is as a result of unfinished class work. In general, set homework tasks will be given on a weekly basis.
- Homework should be relevant to work being studied in the classroom.
- Homework should be set at the appropriate level for all students. Expectations may vary for students of differing ability levels.
- When setting homework tasks, teachers should take consideration of a family’s access levels to references, materials, computers, the internet and other technology.
3.6 Homework is a shared responsibility between the home and school. Failure by students to complete homework on a regular basis will be followed up with parents.
3.7 Parents should make homework time as pleasant as possible. They should provide a quiet, attractive work area where there is a desk or table and adequate lighting.
3.8 Students should establish a predictable routine. If homework is done at the same time each evening, no great decisions about starting have to be made.

3.9 Parents should provide children with the appropriate materials necessary to work eg. pens, pencils, textas, scissors, ruler, glue, eraser, dictionary, atlas - and have them in a container on hand.

3.10 Children should be encouraged to work quickly and efficiently. There should be a set time limit. There is little point in their slogging on once they are frustrated and tired.

3.11 If parents are actively helping with a particular task, keep explanations as simple and practical as possible. Demonstrate, encourage and where possible express approval and satisfaction. If you find yourself becoming upset and the atmosphere getting tense, stop helping.

3.12 It is unhelpful for parents to engage in heated or tense arguments regarding homework completion. If homework completion is an issue, parents should contact their child’s classroom teacher for advice and support.

3.13 In general, it is the parent’s responsibility to provide the place, time, encouragement, support and appropriate environment for the completion of homework. It is the teacher’s responsibility to monitor successful completion and to initiate consequences should completion expectations not be met.

4. Evaluation:

4.1 This policy will be reviewed in consultation with the school community as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

References:

5. Suggested “homework” activities

Here are just a few of the hundreds of “homework” activities you can do with your child to support what happens at school.

**English:**
- Share, read, discuss, flick through, buy or borrow a book.
- Listen to your child read. (5-15 minutes a day is ample!)
- Allow your child to read silently in bed, outside, anywhere.
- Visit the local library - encourage regular borrowing of a range of books.
- Let your child read the TV guide, recipe, newspaper, magazine, road signs, street directory, maps or the school newsletter.
- Write a letter to relatives, friends, pen pals.
- Help to make a shopping list.
- Keep a daily diary, especially on holiday.
- Take messages, make notes and reminders.
- Write a story, a poem, a report.
- Run through the week’s spelling words. (Look, say, cover, write, check.)
- Write captions to family photos.
- Games like Scrabble, Boggle and Hang the Butcher.

**Mathematics**
- Practice number facts. Put up a poster of tables.
- Measure in carpentry, recipes, cars, in the yard.
- Estimate. How long till....? How far is it......? Which is heavier?
- Tell the time. (Digital and analog)
- Use money. Use notes and coins. Check and calculate change. Set a budget.
- Games like Chess, Mastermind, Monopoly.

**The Arts**
- Dancing to, listening to, making and responding to all types of music.
- Paint, draw, sketch, paste, cut, construct.
- Visit a cinema, theatre, art gallery.

**Health and physical education**
- Play outside, at a playground or park.
- Join a sporting club.
- Swim, run, throw, jump or skip.
- Let your children learn to dress themselves, tie laces, select clothes, do jobs around the house and generally look after themselves.

**Science and technology**
- Make a model
- Try cooking.
- Play with Lego or other construction equipment.
- Build a billy cart.
- Play educational computer games.
- Tinker with machines. Pull them apart. Put them back together.
- Visit a museum.

**Humanities**
- Discuss the TV news, current affairs and newspaper articles.
- Watch and join in a quiz show.
- Go to a festival.
- Eat at an ethnic restaurant.
- Join an environmental group.
6. **How parents can help**

Some ways you can help your child with their homework:

- encourage a regular weekly routine to examine and complete homework
- discuss key questions or suggest resources to help with homework
- help children to balance the amount of time spent between homework and recreational activities
- ask how homework and class work is progressing and acknowledge success
- attend school events, productions or displays your child is involved in
- talk to teachers to discuss problems with homework
- check whether homework has been set and encourage your child to keep a homework diary
- participate in homework activities in an encouraging and positive manner
- discuss homework with your child in their first language (if English is not the main language spoken at home).