Belmore South Public School
Homework Policy
Draft 2008

Encouragement and support from parents/caregivers helps students to have a positive, productive approach to homework.

Why is homework so important?
Homework bridges the gap between learning at school and learning at home. By:

- reinforcing work done in class,
- developing skills such as research and time management,
- establishing the habits of study, concentration and self discipline,
- providing parents/caregivers with the opportunity to see the progress of their child, and
- providing challenges and stimulus to children.

'Ideal' homework
The basic rules of homework are that it:

- is appropriate for each student's age and ability
- takes into account students' other commitments, such as sport, part-time employment and home responsibilities
- takes into account technology such as email and the Internet so that students without access are not disadvantaged.

Three types of homework
1. **Practice Exercises** help students to remember and practise newly acquired skills - such as memorising mathematical tables, practising spelling words, writing essays and reading for pleasure.
2. **Preparatory Homework** requires students to source and read background information to prepare them for future lessons on a specific subject - such as reading an article on the Gold Rush in preparation for a lesson in Australian history.
3. **Extension Assignments** encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Assignments may include writing a book review, researching local news or retrieving items from the Internet.
Homework for Kindergarten-Year 2

In general children will not be expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. However, there are things you can do at home to help a child make the most of what they learn in Kindergarten. Reading to Children at Home and involving them in family activities will greatly assist the development of their skills in literacy, numeracy and problem solving.

In Years 1 and 2 some formal homework is usually set. For example, students may be asked to complete simple computations, to copy letters or words, or to complete an activity sheet.

Homework for Years 3-6

Homework in Years 3-6 will be varied and students will be expected to work more independently. However, teachers will still provide guidance and assistance to students having difficulties completing their homework.

Much of the homework will be in English, Mathematics and Social / Environmental Education areas. However, it can be set across all areas of the curriculum.

Incomplete Homework

As homework is curriculum based if it is not completed on a regular basis class teachers will ring parents to inform them and ask for their support to ensure their child is doing what is expected.

What can parents/caregivers do to help?

- Take an active interest in your child's homework.
- Support your child in setting aside time each day for homework.
- Provide a dedicated place for homework and study if possible.
- Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested, and be aware of the amount of homework set.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or your child's approach to homework.
- Encourage your children to read and take an interest in current events.
- Alert the school to any domestic circumstances or extra curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked.