



# Berowra

Public School

## Homework Procedures

### Rationale

Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning while developing sound study habits and time management skills. It provides important opportunities for parents to share their child's education, strengthening communication between home and school.

While homework is an important component of the teaching and learning process, at Berowra Public School we recognise the importance of teaching the whole child. Students should have time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school. Many of our students are involved in extra-curricular activities out of school which impact homework time and a number of parents do not expect their child to complete homework. Others value homework as preparation for high school and as a means to engage their child in discussion about what they are learning in school.

Although homework is encouraged it is not compulsory.

### Procedure statement

BPS Homework Procedures aim to communicate consistency in homework expectations across the school especially stage groups.

### Implementation guidelines

#### Quality

Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:

- Appropriate for each student's age and ability
- Relevant to each student's needs
- Purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- Varied and challenging, but achievable
- Built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- Clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- Supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.

## Manageability

The quantity of homework needs to be manageable so that teachers can ensure quality, and can provide feedback to students on completion.

Homework that is manageable for students will:

- Be age appropriate
- Consider students' outside of school hours commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition and home responsibilities
- Take into account students' access to resources and technology beyond school
- Be clearly communicated to students
- Provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances.

## Responsibilities

### Principal:

- Develop Homework Procedures, in consultation with their school community
- Communicate the Homework Procedures to staff, students, parents/carers
- Monitor and support teachers in the implementation of the Homework Procedures
- Ensure that homework is consistent with the school's learning goals
- Support the need for balance between homework and the many other commitments in students' lives
- Provide mechanisms for teachers and parents/caregivers to communicate about homework
- Recognise that some parents/caregivers may not agree with the school policy on homework.

### Teachers:

- Implement the school's Homework Procedures
- Communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to students and parents/caregivers
- Acknowledge student effort in completing homework and provide timely and relevant feedback on achievement
- Ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for students
- Support students having difficulties with homework
- Discuss with students and parents/caregivers any developing issues regarding a student's homework
- Discuss homework practices with colleagues.

### Parents/Carers:

- Be aware of the school's Homework Procedures
- While homework is designed for students to complete independently, parents and carers are encouraged to be involved with their child's homework
- Encourage their child to complete and submit the homework
- Encourage their child to 'have a go' before stepping in and providing assistance

- Parents are invited to provide feedback to their child/teacher by writing a message on the homework
- Set an environment and routine at home that fits their family and homework requirements
- Discuss with the classroom teacher any difficulties or concerns their child is having with completing homework
- Support their child with completing homework.

## **Students:**

- Collect their homework
- Seek clarification from the classroom teacher if they are unsure of a homework task
- Need to make sure that they take home all required resources to complete their homework
- Need to manage their time so there is no panic when homework is due
- Complete and hand in their homework by the due date.

## **Parents/Carers:**

### **Early Stage 1 (kindergarten)**

Home work is introduced in Term 1 Week 6

- Home Reading and Decodables Online
- Sounds based homework to match classroom unit
- Topic talks
- Athletics

### **Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2)**

- Home reading and Decodables Online
- Sounds based homework to match classroom unit
- Topic talks
- Athletics

### **Stage 2 (Year 3 and Year 4)**

- Athletics
- Reading Eggspress
- Home Reading
- News or debating topics preparation
- Any additional research which relates to class work
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### **Stage 3 (Year 5 and Year 6)**

Students in Stage 3 will be set homework tasks in line with what they are studying in class. Teachers will also suggest further possible activities for individual students in line with their learning goals and personal interests. The homework is not a sheet of questions to be answered and handed in for marking. The goal is to provide students with a choice of tasks that are meaningful and require some organisation and independent study skills to complete this is usually posted via Google Classroom.

## Incomplete Homework

Classroom teachers will keep a record of homework submitted. If a child is unable to complete their homework we encourage parents/carers to send a note to the classroom teacher.

## Monitoring, evaluation and review

Protocols are in place for the induction of new staff (including casual staff) and will include familiarisation with the Homework Procedures. New families will also be provided access to these procedures to maintain consistency with homework expectations at BPS.

The Homework Procedures will be reviewed and updated every 3 years. The evidence that we will collect includes:

- Current research on homework
- Evidence and feedback of the Homework Procedures
- Feedback from staff, students and parents of the Homework Procedures.

This evidence and feedback will be analysed and used to evaluate the success of the Homework Procedures and to make necessary adjustments.

## Resources

Department of Education Policy Library

<https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/homework-policy>