

Policy statement

This document aims to provide clear guidelines about homework expectations at Anzac Park Public School to our community, staff and students. It should be read in alignment with the NSW Department of Education (DoE) 'Homework Policy Guidelines' (2012) and DoE 'Homework Policy: Research Scan' (2012).

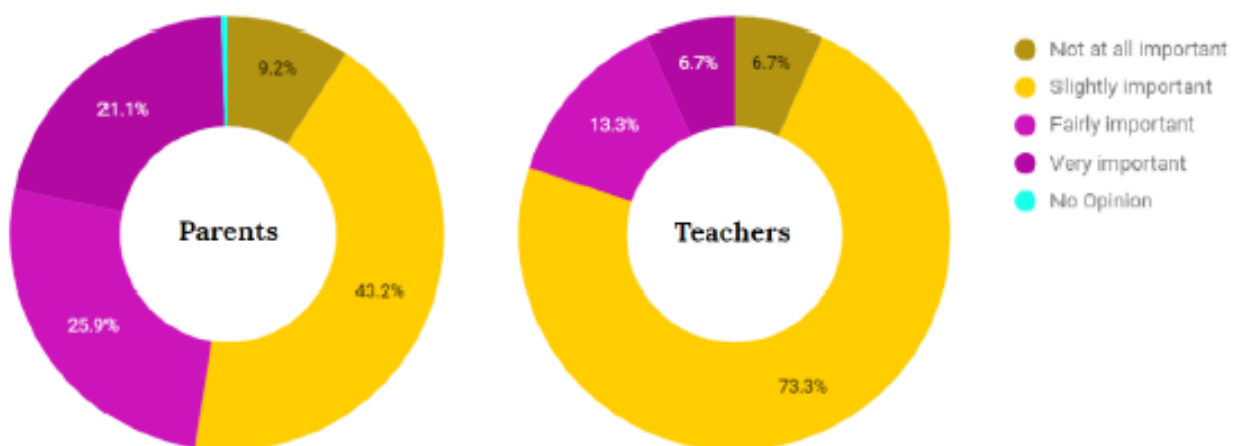
Rationale

Anzac Park Public School aims to inspire a life-long love of learning through 21st Century pedagogy, supported by quality research and DoE policies. The DoE states that, "In developing their Homework Policy, schools should be aware that while the Policy itself is compulsory, the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year levels are not." (2012) This document has been formed by a committee consisting of staff, school executive and a representative from the P&C. In Term 4, 2017, this committee surveyed teachers, students and parents/carers to find community beliefs about homework, and examined DoE and external research into the value of homework.

Research about homework is inconclusive. There is no consistent evidence that homework lifts academic performance, and no evidence that homework helps students develop skills in time management, responsibility, self-discipline or motivation. A notable exception to this is home reading, which research consistently finds contributes significantly to student academic success, particularly across aspects of literacy.

Community survey data indicated that staff and parents/carers had varied beliefs about the value of homework. More than half of the parent/carers community communicated that homework was 'Not at all Important' or 'Slightly Important' to a child's learning, while this figure rose to more than 75% amongst staff.

How important do you think homework is to your child(ren)'s learning?



Parents/carers frequently expressed a belief that students have many other commitments that can interfere with the completion of homework, and 68.6% indicated that 'My child needs downtime to relax after school'. In written responses, parents most frequently communicated that they would like to see less or limited homework, believe that homework interferes with free and family time, and think that homework increases stress on families.

The homework committee examined the homework guidelines at the local high school and found that in Year 7 students are expected to complete a project for each subject, each term. The focus on project-based learning was consistent with teacher perspectives, many of whom recognised value in projects in the later primary school years. Students in Years 3-6 at Anzac Park Public School also more frequently favoured project-based homework as opposed to daily tasks.

Implementation

Students will be set homework based on the following guidelines.

Reading	Public Speaking	Project-Based Learning
<p>Kindergarten-Year 2 Students should read a minimum of 10 minutes per night. This should include a mix of quality literature and home readers, and consist of parent reading, student reading and reading together.</p> <p>Years 3-6 Students should read a minimum of 25 minutes per night. This should include a mix of quality literature and school-set texts, and consist of parent reading, reading together and increased time spent on student independent reading. For school texts, students may need to complete an associated activity.</p>	<p>Kindergarten-Year 6 Once a year, all students will participate in a school Public Speaking Competition, for which they will prepare at home.</p>	<p>Years 3-4 Students will be assigned one project per semester with content and skills directly aligned with classroom learning programs.</p> <p>Years 5-6 Students will be assigned one project per term with content and skills directly aligned with classroom learning programs.</p>
<p>Additional Support Please note, parents and teachers may request/assign homework to provide additional support for individual students. This work may be set in alignment with additional programs (EALD, Learning Support).</p>		

Responsibility

In order for the successful implementation of this policy, the responsibilities of our school community are as follows:

- *Teachers* are to follow school homework guidelines to promote consistency across the school. Additionally, it is the responsibility of teachers to work with students and parents to meet individual needs and provide additional support through homework as required.
- *Students* are to complete the homework tasks assigned by their teacher to consolidate learning from the classroom. This includes daily reading in line with policy expectations.
- *Parents* are to support their children in their understanding that homework set by the teacher is highly recommended as it consolidates learning from the classroom. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved with their child's homework. This should include supporting daily reading in line with policy expectations.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

This policy was formed in Term 4, 2017. To ensure the policy aligns with up-to-date research and community expectations, it will be reviewed in Term 4, 2018.

References

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