



# McCallums Hill Public School

## Home Learning Policy

This document should be read in conjunction with the DoE Homework Policy  
<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/curriculum/schools/homework/PD20020003.shtml?level=Schools&categories=Schools%7Ccurriculum+%26+school+work%7Chomework>

*Quality homework in Infants and Primary schools may help students to develop effective study habits and broaden their skills and understanding across the curriculum.*

*(Homework Policy Guidelines, Public Schools NSW, May 2012, p.5)*

### **Purpose:**

Homework, or in this case, home learning, is defined as any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals. It is the policy of this school that some learning tasks or experiences will be set for students to complete at home. Tasks will be relevant, meaningful and based on current class and revised work.

### **Home Learning aims:**

- to develop regular study habits in students
- allow students to continue their learning journey at home and
- provide students with an opportunity to practice and refine skills taught in the classroom.

### **Rationale:**

An important part of a child's education is the carryover of their learning into activities outside the school setting. Home Learning is an extension of classroom work and may include a variety of tasks and formats such as eLearning, e.g. Reading Eggs or Mathletics; reading; maths; learning maths facts or spelling words; music or story writing; worksheets; projects; research and investigation; gathering information or resources; or completing unfinished classroom work.

Home learning tasks or experiences that are diverse, closely related to current class work and inclusive of a range of after school activities already being carried out by students, provide students with a greater opportunity to see the relevance of their learning at school and make a stronger link between home and school.

Reading at home to and with adults, and/or independently is an essential part of each child's learning development, which should continue throughout a child's life. Reading material may be sent home on a regular basis or the students may choose to utilise other quality reading materials. Depending on the interests and competencies the students should be encouraged to widen their reading through newspapers, magazines, library books or reference materials.

***Whilst schools are required to develop a Homework Policy, the setting of home learning and any indicative time allocations across year levels are not.***

***Expectations:***

*Community expectations about homework are variable, research regarding the value of homework is inconclusive and schools are best placed to make decisions about homework in consultation with their communities. The school believes:*

1. In building home study habits it is important that a student makes maximum use of their limited time. The ability to work (un)supervised in the time available before or after school should be encouraged. Home Learning, however, is not meant to occupy the majority of the child's time away from school.
2. Home learning is set for students, not their parents/ caregivers. Parents/ caregivers are encouraged to be interested and cooperative, but their role should be to support their child and provide them with adequate time, space, materials and resources i.e. a desk, access to a computer/ internet.
3. Teachers will set home learning according to the home learning policy and the academic year expectations. Parents should have the choice of opting out of home learning for their child if they believe it is not beneficial to the child or if they feel it is having a negative impact on the child's attitude towards learning. If parents make this choice on behalf of their child, there will be no negative consequence imposed by the school.
4. It is the responsibility of the student to submit their home learning to the best of their ability by the due date. The student and teacher negotiate the expectations of the set tasks. Some home learning activities, particularly for Stage 2 and 3 will be reviewed in class while other activities will be marked by the teacher only. Reviews might include but are not limited to conversations, peer review and structured self-assessment. This means that not all homework will have a teacher's tick on it. There will be time for students to discuss some home learning activities in class and for the teacher to provide feedback to the students.

***While home learning may be considered a component of the teaching and learning process, our school recognises that it is important for students to have time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school.***

***Monitoring, Evaluation and Review:***

Teachers will monitor the completion of tasks. Where there is cause for concern, a parent, student and teacher conference will be organised. Indicators of success will be:

- Greater student positivity about home learning;
- Positive parental responses; and,
- Positive impact on student attitudes towards learning.

## ***Kindergarten:***

The amount of home learning may increase over the two semesters. The **home reading program** forms the basis of Kindergarten homework for the year.

### *The home reading program:*

- Is levelled to suit individual students
- Students borrow the books from their classroom and/ or Library
- When they finish reading book(s) parents/ caregivers will fill out their home reading log and the students will return their book and borrow another one

In addition to the home reading program the following will also be completed as home learning;

- Students need to learn their sight words
- Students occasionally prepare a talk using chat cards in Term 2, 3 and 4
- Completion of Reading Eggs and Mathletics online work

## ***Years 1 to 6:***

The home learning may consist of –

- A grid of varying activities. A specific number of tasks on the grid will be completed according to class teacher's discretion.
- Some activities will be compulsory, whilst others will provide students with some free choice options.
- Home learning will be assigned on a negotiated day, and returned on at least a 7 day turn around period.
- Twice a term students will have home learning free week i.e. they will have no assigned grid activities with the exception of reading at home.
- Students will have varying activities in their home learning grid. They will be expected to complete reading and spelling activities as well as optional activities that are negotiated, based on the amount of time students are given for their home learning.

## ***Suggested Time Formats for Home Learning each day:***

***Kindergarten:*** 5 - 10 minutes + Reading

***Year 1 and Year 2:*** 15 minutes + Reading

***Year 3 and 4:*** 20 - 25 minutes + Reading

***Year 5 and Year 6:*** 25 – 30 minutes + Reading

These times are a general rule, however will vary depending on students' age and ability.



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## Participation in Home Learning

The school considers reading at home to and with adults, or independently, to be an essential part of each child's learning development. All children are expected to participate in reading at home.

**Please complete a separate form for each of your children.**

Having considered the school's home learning policy, I wish to make the following choice about the participation of my child (*please tick one statement*):

- I choose to opt out of all home learning activities on behalf of my child. However, my child will complete Home Reading.
- I choose to have my child to do some home learning activities depending on their learning needs, level of interest and the availability of time.
- I choose to have my child complete homework as provided by the class teacher. I wish this to be monitored by the teacher and I wish to be informed if home learning is not completed consistently.

***Please indicate whether your child has access to a computer and the Internet at home in order to access their work digitally.***

- Yes**, my child does have access to a computer and the Internet at home.
- No**, my child does not have access to a computer and the Internet at home.

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/ Caregiver: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Caregiver's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return note to class teacher***