

# HOMEWORK

## POLICY

### **Rationale**

APS promotes homework to practise skills and apply learning beyond the classroom. The school recognises homework as an opportunity to support parental involvement in their child's education.

### **Aims**

To

- Reinforce the child's confidence and enjoyment in learning
- Encourage children to work independently and take responsibility for their learning
- Develop, reinforce and practise skills for learning
- Establish good homework patterns leading to the development of time management and organisational skills
- Enable parents to play an active role and be connected to their child's learning
- Link tasks with the APS learning program with a recognisable purpose

### **Implementation**

A wide range of learning experiences can be considered as homework. Homework tasks will allow for open ended outcomes and involve choice. These may include: Literacy - supervised and unsupervised reading, fiction and non-fiction writing, undertaking research tasks, learning spelling; Maths – real life problem solving, practising number facts, tasks; Inquiry – conducting research related to class Inquiry unit or designing an experiment.

The basis for homework at APS is outlined below in accordance with Department of Education and Early Childhood guidelines:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/guidelines.aspx>

1. Teachers advise parents of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year.
2. Parents should be directed to the homework policy on the school website.
3. Homework is coordinated across subject areas, with specialists distributing or coordinating homework with the class teacher.
4. Teachers set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit student learning needs.
5. Teachers give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities.
6. Homework is provided on a regular basis to encourage time management and organisational skills.
7. Teachers ensure required resources are available for homework tasks and alternative access is arranged if required (i.e. internet access).
8. An assessment criterion is made clear to students and parents.
9. Homework is assessed, to provide timely and practical feedback and (written or verbal) support.

10. Teachers communicate with parents when there is regular non-compliance with homework.
11. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to support their child with homework.
12. Parents should seek teacher support if there are any homework concerns.

**Prep to Year 4** – Homework should primarily be about reinforcement of skills, it should:

- Mainly consist of daily reading to, with and by parents/caregivers or older siblings
- Relate to the Maths and Inquiry curriculum being taught in class
- Extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials
- Generally not exceed 30 minutes a day and will not be set on weekends or during holidays.

**Year 5 and 6** – Homework will generally be more challenging and should:

- Include daily independent reading
- Be an extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and/ or research
- Generally range from 30 – 45 minutes a day
- Include use of a diary (including electronic) for recording homework where possible.

### **Evaluation**

The School Council will be responsible for the review of the policy within the life of the school strategic plan.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

**December 2012**