Rationale

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework must take into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation, and cultural activities.

Minimbah State School believes that homework that enhances student learning:

- is purposeful and relevant to students needs
- is appropriate to the phase of learning (early, middle and senior)
- is appropriate to the capability of the student
- develops the student's independence as a learner
- is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- allows for student commitment to recreational, family and cultural activities.

Homework engages students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning – PRACTICING FOR MASTERY
- applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue)
- pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making)
- preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information).

Responsibilities

Teachers help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- setting homework on a regular basis
- providing homework tasks for which all children can reasonably access resources at home.
- clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
- checking homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback
- using homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students’ learning needs
- explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through homework
- giving consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in
- discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.

Parents and Caregivers help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy and actively supporting it with their children
- regularly discussing homework expectations with their children
- regularly reading to younger children, listening to children reading and asking questions to check comprehension levels.
- actively encouraging and supervising children to complete homework to a high standard
- discussing with teachers any developing problems concerning their children's homework.
Students take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

**OPERATION OF POLICY**

During the first week of the school year and at regular intervals after, teachers will utilize class discussion time to explain homework expectations and good homework practices.

Teachers will provide students and parents with a weekly or fortnightly homework summary which outlines the type of homework to be completed and time to be spent at home completing work. This can be done consistently as a year level team.

Consequences for non-completion should be detailed in the class behaviour plan and parents should be notified if students fail to complete homework on a regular basis or regularly fail to complete homework to a satisfactory standard.

Minimbah will follow Education Queensland’s Homework Guidelines as follows:

- In the Prep year, generally students will not be set homework;
- Homework in Years 1, 2, 3 could be up to 1 hour a week;
- Homework in Years 4 and 5 could be up to 2-3 hours each week;
- Homework in Years 6 and 7 could be up to 3-4 hours a week.

Naturally, parents are encouraged to write a note to the teacher if family circumstances prevent homework completion.

Sean Bennett  
Principal

Sue Lambert  
President P&C