

# Clontarf Beach State School

## Homework Policy



At Clontarf Beach State School, we recognise that homework plays an important role in the relationship between school and the home. When considering the role of homework, we acknowledge that homework needs to: allow sufficient time for family, extra-curricular, recreation, community and cultural activities; ensure that students are not disadvantaged by a lack of access to resources outside of the school; not be strictly a compliance activity for students at CBSS and most importantly, homework must support the learning that is occurring in the classroom.

At Clontarf Beach State School, we believe that homework is most effective when it:

- is clearly related to class work
- is appropriate to particular years of school
- is varied and differentiated to individual learning needs
- consolidates, revises and/or applies students' classroom learning
- develops students independence as a learner through extension activities such as investigating, researching, writing, designing, or making
- assists students to prepare for upcoming classroom learning, such as collecting relevant materials and information or completing surveys and audits
- is closely monitored and supported by the teacher through the provision of feedback.

From Prep to Year 6, there will be no weekly homework sheets sent home and collected. We also acknowledge that alternate homework activities (digital platforms, family chores) are also highly valued at home. A suggestion of some of these activities and digital platforms are included in the Appendices of this policy (to be included later in 2019).

Homework expectations across each sub-school (Prep to Year 2; Year 3 to Year 6) are clear and consistent in approach and time allocations. These suggested times are indicated in the table below:

Weekly Suggested Time Allocation for Homework				
Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Years 3-4	Years 5-6
30 minutes	40 minutes	50 minutes	60 minutes	75 minutes

### Homework in Prep to Year 2

In the early years of school, homework plays an integral role in developing independence and establishing routines for later schooling. Homework in Prep to Year 2 places a strong focus on consolidating early literacy concepts and number facts concepts.

The key elements of homework in Prep to Year 2 are:

- 'Starlight' Reading Program
- Number Facts Program (to be introduced later in 2019)

### Homework in Year 3 to Year 6

In the middle years of school, homework encourages independence, supports classroom learning and maintains routines that will be essential in later school. Homework in Year 3 to Year 6 places a strong focus on revising and extending classroom learning through the allocation of independent tasks.

Students in Years 5 and 6 will maintain a homework diary where set tasks and due dates will be recorded. As our upper year's students transition to high school, we acknowledge that it is important that our students can develop their own organisational behaviours as we provide a seamless transition to future schooling.

The key elements of homework in Year 3 to Year 6 are:

- 'Starlight' Reading Program
- Number facts program (to be introduced later in 2019) and number concepts
- Revision of curriculum content
- Independent tasks or preparation activities

### 'STARLIGHT' Reading Program

All students at Clontarf Beach State School (Prep to Year 6) are expected to complete daily reading. For students in Prep – Year 3 specifically, an element of this reading is expected to be reading aloud to a parent or carer. For Year 4-6, we do recommend that an element of their reading is also reading aloud. As students move into texts that are more text heavy, we acknowledge that daily reading can move towards reading for pleasure. Research has proven the comprehension benefit of reading for students up to Year 6.

To monitor and track the home reading, students can maintain a log of their daily reading using a reading journal (each child receives one free in 2019) or a reading tracker. Year 5 and 6 students can use their homework diary (each child receives one free in 2019) or a reading tracker.

The '**Starlight' Reading Program** encourages students to read aloud to their families. This practice builds reading confidence, assists in the improvement of decoding and fluency, promotes a love of reading, and supports students' development as readers.

The '**Starlight Reading Program**' results are monitored and recorded in each classroom. Student milestones will be celebrated with each milestone being assigned its own element of success. Certificates and stickers will be available through the journals and champion readers in each class will be acknowledged and celebrated regularly.

Reading materials for the '**Starlight Reading Program**' can be borrowed through the Library before school and during break times. Teachers will also have scheduled Library times where students will have the opportunity to borrow specific readers aimed at the student's reading level. An appropriately levelled reader is one that is not too easy, but not too hard. Your child shouldn't be having to stop to sound out a lot of words and should finish reading with a satisfactory understanding or comprehension of what has been read.

### Fostering a Strong Reading Program at Home

A strong, nightly reading program in the household is paramount to student learning. Adults in the household are pivotal to fostering a strong home reading program. If children are able to see adults engage positively (reading with expression, asking questions, talking about the pictures/words, and discussing the text) in a variety of reading texts on a regular basis, research has shown this leads to a greater chance of success when learning. Visiting the library or surrounding the home with a variety of books (comics, books, magazines) are also experiences that will promote positive reading experiences for children. The parent/role is integral and at Clontarf Beach State School, you can play your part towards supporting your child to be a successful reader.

Appendices (to be added later in 2019)