Homework Policy

Rationale
The NSW Department of Education and Communities’ policy website specifies that each school is to develop a Homework Policy. A school’s Homework Policy should be:

- relevant to the needs of students
- developed in consultation with key school community stakeholders including teachers, parents/caregivers and students
- communicated to staff, students, parents/caregivers, particularly at the time of student enrolment.

Policy Statement

Quality
Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:

- appropriate for each student’s age and ability
- relevant to each student’s needs
- purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- varied and challenging, but achievable
- built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.

Homework tasks should be assigned by teachers with a specific, explicit learning purpose. On completion, teachers should acknowledge student effort and provide feedback related to student learning.

Implementation

Manageability
The quantity of homework needs to be manageable so that teachers can ensure quality, and can provide feedback to students on completion.

Homework that is manageable for students will:

- be age appropriate
- consider students’ outside of school hours commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition, part-time employment and home responsibilities
- take into account students’ access to resources and technology beyond school
- be clearly communicated to students
- provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances.

Communication
Communication and the provision of clear information between teachers, parents/caregivers and students is a requirement of an effective school Homework Policy. In developing a policy, the school community needs to determine what communication approaches and processes will be most effective for parents/caregivers, students and teachers. The school’s Homework Policy should be made available to the school community, particularly at the time of enrolment. Parents/caregivers of students experiencing difficulties completing homework need to be confident that these concerns can be discussed with the teacher, and that guidance and assistance will be provided.

Responsibilities

Principals:
- Develop a Homework Policy, in consultation with their school community
- Communicate the Homework Policy to staff, students, parents/caregivers
- Monitor and support teachers in the implementation of the Homework Policy
- Ensure that homework is consistent with the school’s learning goals
- Support the need for balance between homework and the many other commitments in students’ lives
- Provide mechanisms for teachers and parents/caregivers to communicate about homework
- Recognise that some parents/caregivers may not agree with the school policy on homework. This may necessitate the development of alternative strategies.

Teachers:
- Implement the school’s Homework Policy
- Communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to students and parents/caregivers
- Acknowledge student effort in completing homework and provide timely and relevant feedback on achievement
- Ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for students
- Support students having difficulties with homework
- Discuss with students and parents/caregivers any developing issues regarding a student’s homework
- Discuss homework practices with colleagues.

Homework at Elanora Heights PS

Homework for Kindergarten-Year 2
In general, students are not expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. Students may be given books to read at home, as appropriate.

In Years 1 and 2 some formal homework may be set. For example, students might be asked to read and write, learn words for spelling and complete some mathematical activities.

Homework for Years 3-6
Homework in Years 3-6 may be varied and students may be expected to work more independently. Students could be encouraged to read and practise mathematical concepts learnt at school. Other homework may also be set across areas of the curriculum.
Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The policy is to be monitored and evaluated through parent and staff participation, surveys and feedback. The policy is to be evaluated December 2013.