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 takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

Homework that enhances student learning:
• is purposeful and relevant to student’s 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 can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:
• revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practising 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).

What is the Purpose of Homework?

Prep to Year 2
1. To collaboratively revise, consolidate and/or practise skills and concepts directly linked to the current curriculum at the child’s level which may include:
   • Letter and sound recognition
   • Sight words
   • Daily reading
   • Counting
   • Number study
   • Spelling and word study
2. To collaboratively complete tasks to support the current curriculum program which may include:
   • Collecting materials
   • Gathering information
   • Discussing topics

Years 3 and 4
1. To revise, consolidate and/or practise skills and concepts directly linked to the current curriculum at the child’s level with increasing independence which may include:
   • Reading (may include letter/sound/sight word recognition)
   • Number facts
   • Revision of weekly maths concepts
   • Spelling and word study
2. To complete tasks to support the current curriculum program with increasing independence which may include:
   • Collecting materials
   • Gathering information
   • Discussing topics
Years 5 and 6
1. To independently revise, consolidate and/or practise skills and concepts directly linked to the current curriculum at the child's level which may include:
   • Reading (may include letter/sound/sight word recognition)
   • Number facts
   • Revision of weekly maths concepts
   • Spelling and word study
2. To independently complete tasks to support the current curriculum program which may include:
   • Collecting materials
   • Gathering information
   • Discussing topics
   • Completing unfinished work

Time Allocations

Prep to Year 2: could be up to, but generally not more than, 1 hour per week.
Years 3 and 4: could be up to, but generally not more than, 2-3 hours per week.
Years 5 and 6: could be up to, but generally not more than, 3-4 hours per week.

Roles and Responsibilities of Teacher

• Homework expectations will be set at the beginning of each year following school policy guidelines.
• Set relevant and meaningful tasks that are related to classroom learning.
• Check homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback to students.
• Inform parents of developing problems concerning homework and suggest strategies to assist.
• Use discretion when determining tasks, taking into consideration the student's ability, home circumstances and commitments.
• Teach strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through homework.

Roles and Responsibilities of Student

• Make sure they take home everything they need to complete homework tasks.
• Manage their time to ensure homework is completed on time.
• Discuss with their parents or caregivers homework expectations.
• Seek assistance when difficulties arise.
• Organise their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

Roles and Responsibilities of Parents

• Notify the teacher if there is any difficulty with the tasks set.
• Acknowledge homework completed by signing as appropriate.
• Provide feedback to their child by writing a message on the homework.
• Set an environment and routine at home that fits their family.
• Encourage students to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning.

Consistent Approach – Teacher Responsibilities

• Teachers will make clear the expectations at the start of each term.
• All activities will revise, consolidate and/or practise skills and concepts directly linked to the current curriculum.
• Homework will focus on basic literacy and numeracy skills (as outlined in the purpose section).
• Homework will be set for a week with start day and completion day clarified at the start of year.
  Homework will run over a weekend (where possible) so students have the opportunity to catch up if necessary.
• Weekly list for spelling and number facts will also be made explicit for the whole term at the start of each term and directly link to classroom curriculum.
• Suggested activities to learn spelling and number facts will be provided by the teacher. These may be electronic activities, games etc or work to be completed in homework book.
• An edstudio of Optional Extras will be provided for students electing to do further homework.
• Teachers will check and mark the homework each week, celebrating and reflecting on learning.
• Where appropriate, teachers may provide opportunities for celebration (eg. homework heroes).

*Teachers will differentiate for different learners by:*
• including Spelling personal words at student level;
• assigning Mathletics to suit groups or individuals;
• utilising Reading eggs (self paced);
• providing home reading books at appropriate reading level;
• providing alternate spelling and number fact activities for students significantly behind year level expectations.

**Parent and Student Responsibilities**

Parents and students collaborate to decide the best times for homework noting the recommended weekly time allocation and organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activities and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

Parents should encourage children to take responsibility for their learning and organisation of time and support as follows:
• Prep to Year 2 students complete tasks collaboratively with parents/caregivers.
• Year 3 to 4 students complete homework with increased independence.
• Year 5 to 6 students complete homework independently.
• Parents complete the “Tracking Checklist” indicating which tasks have been completed.

**Completion of Work**

We believe homework is the parent’s opportunity to support their child with further reinforcement. We understand families have very busy lives with many commitments. At East Brisbane State School, we communicate with families to ensure homework expectations are reasonable.

*Guidelines include:*
• Parents of students who have not completed homework will be sent a letter by the teacher informing them of their child’s non-completion. Parents should communicate with the class teacher regarding any family circumstances that may potentially impact on the learner’s ability to complete homework.
• Teachers and parents of students not completing homework will negotiate a plan that is mutually satisfactory.
• It is the responsibility of the teacher to set and check homework and the responsibility of the parent to support their child with homework.
• This policy was endorsed by the Parents and Citizens Association on 12 March 2015 for implementation in 2015.

*Consequences for repeated non-completion of homework include:*
• Discussion with student.
• Encouragement to complete set tasks at lunch time / before school.
• Parent notification and meeting if required.
• Reporting of homework non-completion on school reports.
• Students will not miss out on extra-curricular activities because of failure to complete homework.