



## HOMework POLICY

### Background

There has been extensive research into the value of homework. The impact of homework on a child's achievement depends on several factors. Homework plays a valuable role in providing parents with a window into their child's learning at school. Homework activities appear to be most effective when linked directly to class activities so that homework is part of the learning process across home and school. It has been found that parents can influence the homework environment by creating positive conditions for learning and encouraging children to complete tasks. A successful outcome for homework appears to be contingent on teacher preparation, the motivation of the child and the level of parental support available.

### Rationale

The purpose of assigning homework is to give the students the opportunity to extend lessons, practice skills, engage in critical thinking and develop good working habits and responsibility. Homework can also serve as one form of communication between the teacher and the family. It is important that homework does not add unnecessary stress to family life. Therefore, it is up to the child, family and teacher to share the responsibilities for homework. Homework is aimed at consolidating learning, building confidence and independence.

- Homework tasks should be assigned by teachers with a specific, explicit learning purpose
- The quantity of homework needs to be manageable
- It must build on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- Homework must be relevant and achievable
- Other commitments such as sport will be considered
- It should be flexible to allow for pupil circumstances

Strong reading skills impact many aspects of a child's development and learning experience at school. At Applewood we strive to grow our children into avid readers. We believe it is vital for families to spend time together with books. Parents reading to their children and children reading to their families. Children are encouraged to



borrow books from the school library. All children should be encouraged to read every night as we help each child develop the habit of being a lifelong reader.

Tasks will be kept to age-appropriate time frames and will encourage parent involvement. It is an expectation that all children will complete homework tasks.

### **Procedures**

#### Teachers responsibilities

- Homework tasks will be connected to the learning in the classroom that week
- It will be meaningful for the child and aim to contribute to student learning
- Specific family circumstances will always be considered and homework seen as a means of including parents in the learning process
- Homework tasks will be clearly outlined, concise and uncomplicated
- Homework tasks will be well planned

#### Childrens responsibilities

- To ask questions when something is unclear
- To ensure homework is packed in the school bag before leaving the classroom
- To complete all tasks in the best of their ability
- To return homework on time
- To provide feedback to the teacher regarding their homework

#### Family's responsibilities

- To provide a routine and environment that is conducive to doing homework (for example a quiet consistent place and time with necessary materials)
- To offer assistance to the child, but not to do the actual homework
- To notify the teacher when homework presents a problem
- To read school notices and respond in a timely manner. Homework and school notices will travel home as arranged by the class teacher
- Time manage homework to fit your family's schedule



### **Age specific guidelines**

At Applewood, we know that the amount of time it takes to complete various homework tasks will vary. The following indicates what we believe the guideline should be. If your child diligently does their homework, for the maximum allotted time and does not complete it, you are encouraged to notify the teacher.

### **Junior Primary Guidelines**

Homework is set Monday to Thursday. Under the supervision of a parent homework should not exceed 20 minutes / 30 minutes.

#### **Grade 1**

- No more than 2 pages of Maths per day, focusing on Maths in everyday activities
- No more than 2 pages of English homework per school day from the Time2Read Read and Grow at home book (Term 1 – 4)
- Daily word building using letter tiles according to provided word lists (Term 1 and 2)
- Daily reading from a school reader (Term 3 and 4)

#### **Grade 2**

- No more than 2 pages of Maths per day, focussing on the weekly concept
- No more than 2 pages of English per day, consolidating skills such as phonics, comprehension or language
- Daily reading from a school reader

#### **Grade 3**

- No more than 2 pages of Maths per day, focussing on the weekly concept
- No more than 2 pages of English per day, consolidating skills such as phonics, comprehension or language
- Daily reading from a school reader
- Weekly spelling and reading tasks for Afrikaans Home Language children
- Weekly vocabulary enrichment tasks for Afrikaans First Additional Language

#### **Extra**

Research and preparation for orals or projects for theme based learning each term.



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### **Senior Primary Guidelines**

The homework for the week is assigned at the beginning of each week, to offer children the opportunity to practice prioritisation and time management. Children should be capable of completing the majority of the homework independently and the total time spent on homework should not exceed 40 minutes per day.

#### **Grade 4 – 7**

- Daily/Weekly maths tasks, focusing on either mental maths or topic related activities
- Weekly English homework combining spelling and or language skills
- Independent reading of setwork books
- Weekly Afrikaans homework combining spelling and or language skills

#### **Extra**

Preparation for tests, projects, orals and exams which will be assigned at least a week ahead.

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