

HOMework POLICY

All schools have different expectations regarding homework.

At Athelstone School we believe that:

- Homework is for building confidence and reinforcing / practising what is learnt at school
- Homework is beneficial when parents positively support their child's learning
- Establishing a set routine assists children develop independence as learners. A regular time needs to be set aside that is best suited to your child / children. E.g. some children need a snack and a play or relaxing time before they begin homework

Meta-Research carried by John Hattie (Professor of Education, University of Auckland) analysing the effects of homework on 105,282 students worldwide has found that of the 138 factors he has identified that enhance student learning, homework is ranked 88th. His research has found that homework has little effect on enhancing student learning, it is only useful to reinforce existing knowledge and skills. Hattie has found that the most useful homework was task oriented where basic skills were practised. No new learning should be given as homework. Homework is more effective, whatever the subject, when it involves rote learning, practice or rehearsal of the subject matter.

Rationale:

At Athelstone School we therefore believe that homework may be given in moderation and that the type of homework given should reinforce existing skills and may involve practicing skills such as reading, spelling, times tables and number facts. Rote learning of basic facts has also been found to be useful.

Time Spent on Homework

Recent research supports the need for children to spend quality time with their families with less academic pressure. Research has shown that homework is more effective when kept to a minimum, is focused and frequent.

- Reception to Year 2 students will spend between 5 and 15 minutes a night practising skills, such as reading, word knowledge, preparing and practising oral language talks.
- Year 3 to 5 students will spend 20 to 30 minutes practising skills
- Year 6 and 7 students will spend 30 to 60 minutes practising skills.

Teachers at Athelstone will set homework Monday to Thursday that is focused on reinforcing skill development.

The maximum time indicated should not be exceeded. The school is also aware that on certain week nights many families have commitments that may impact on the amount of time students spend on homework. In older classes, homework may be set as a weekly contract.

Home School Communication

If any children are experiencing difficulty with homework the school requests that parents or caregivers let the class teacher know immediately.