

Castletown Primary School

A school guided by strong values



Homework Policy

Rationale

Castletown Primary School recognises that homework can reinforce understanding of basic facts, support learning implemented in the classroom and assist in the development of independent work habits.

Homework can support higher levels of student achievement by extending the time available for students to consolidate skills and concepts learned at school. While some parents have the expectation that schools will set and mark homework, others believe that school work is the domain of schools. Many community members see homework as tangible evidence that the school cares about the educational progress of students.

Therefore, the school's approach to homework must acknowledge the wide range of parental beliefs and expectations, and homework is optional.

It is expected that homework will relate directly to the teaching and learning programs appropriate to the needs of students. Preparation of students for the time commitment of homework anticipated in years to come is not, in itself, a reasonable basis for setting homework.



CASTLETOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Castletown Primary School, we inspire and educate all students to succeed in becoming productive and valued citizens.

Inspire - Educate - Succeed

Purpose

Castletown Primary School has developed this policy to enable students to:

1. Reinforce concepts taught.
2. Enhance reading skills.
3. Enhance understanding of basic numeracy facts/skills.
4. Encourage the development of independent work habits.

Procedures

Homework will:

- Be offered to all students.
- Only be used to reinforce basic facts/skills and classroom work.
- Form part of a developmental learning program that is relevant, responsive to individual needs and be supported by classroom practice.
- **Not be compulsory** and be disassociated from any form of discipline.
- Be negotiated with parents if necessary.

Guidelines

Homework should:

- Avoid dependence on unreasonable levels of parental assistance or resources that are not readily available to the student.
- Be relevant to the student's age, development and educational aspirations.
- Be responsive to individual needs and learning area requirements.
- Not impinge on reasonable time for family, recreational and cultural pursuits. (See Appendix A)



Roles and Expectations

The teacher's role is to:

- Inform parents of homework guidelines and policy at the beginning of the year.
- Provide homework that complements classroom instruction.
- Present learning activities appropriate to particular levels of the students.
- Give useful, regular feedback to students about their work and acknowledge completion of homework.
- Give explicit instructions about homework and expected completion dates.
- Provide ideas about alternative / additional homework activities if requested by parents, such as websites and apps

The parent's role is to:

- Support students where necessary through:
 - Listening to oral reading.
 - Organising specific homework routines.
 - Ensuring students have the necessary resources.
 - Regular communication with teachers regarding progress.
- Make alternative arrangements regarding homework with classroom teacher if necessary.
- Respect the child's knowledge and skill

The student's role is to:

- Act responsibly to complete set tasks on time.
- Approach teachers for resources when needed.
- Ask for help from teachers and family if necessary.

Appendix A

SUGGESTIONS FOR TYPES OF HOMEWORK

All students from Years 1-6 are encouraged to read every day at home as part of the RIBIT program (for at least 10 minutes a day) in addition to the homework below.

YEAR LEVEL	HOMEWORK TYPE	APPROX TIME ALLOCATION
K	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parents reading to children using Literacy Library Bags. Suggested oral questions sheets provided. Focus on Vocabulary	40 mins per school week*
PP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Re-tell of stories through Literacy Library Bags (from Term 2). Questions provided to parents.Preparation for oral retellsReview of letters & sounds / numbersDecodeable Home Readers from Semester 2	40 mins per school week*
1 /2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reading (RIBIT)SpellingBasic number facts/skills	60 mins per school week *
3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reading (RIBIT)SpellingBasic number facts/skillsConsolidate and revise concepts from class lessons	80 mins per school week*
5/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Home Reading – Cooperative Reading (include in RIBIT)Spelling/VocabularyBasic number facts/skillsClassroom work completion	100 mins per school week*

*Homework should be given on a weekly basis rather than nightly