Homework gives students the opportunity to build upon their class work and involve family members in their learning. To help find a balance between family life and helping students reach their full potential, Mango Hill State School has outlined expectations in this Homework Policy which sets out guidelines for homework, including the amount of time students should spend on homework each week.

What is the purpose of homework?

Prep - Year 2

- 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
  - Discussing texts with QAR comprehension questions (Prep book bags)
  - Counting
  - Number study
  - Spelling and word study.

- To collaboratively complete tasks to support the current curriculum program which may include
  - Collecting materials
  - Gathering information
  - Discussing topics.

Year 3 and 4

- 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
  - Number facts
• Revision of weekly maths concepts
• Spelling and word study.

• To complete tasks to support the current curriculum program with increasing independence which may include
  • Collecting materials
  • Gathering information
  • Discussing topics.

**Year 5-7**

• 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
  • Number facts
  • Revision of weekly maths concepts
  • Spelling and word study.

• 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 - 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 5-7 could be up to but generally not more than 3-4 hours per week.

**Consistent approach - Teacher responsibilities**

• Teachers will make clear the expectations at the start of each term.
• Expectations will be listed on the class edstudio and may also be included in homework book.
• 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 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.

• 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)
  • Utilising Accelerated Reader (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
  o Prep- Year 2 students complete tasks collaboratively with parents/caregivers
  o Year 3-4 students complete homework with increased independence
  o Year 5-7 students complete homework independently.
• Parents complete the “Tracking Checklist” indicating which tasks have been completed.
• Parents communicate with the class teacher regarding any family circumstances that may potentially impact on the child’s ability to complete homework.

**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 MHSS, we communicate with families to ensure homework expectations are reasonable.

In regards to completion of work our focus will be

- Rewarding and acknowledging students who complete homework satisfactorily and
- Communicating with parents of those students who do not complete homework to understand the reasons for non-completion.

Guidelines include:

- Each week the class teacher will check and mark the homework, celebrating and reflecting on learning.
- Student will have the opportunity of attending “Homework Club” on Friday lunch break to complete work not done at home.
- Students who have completed their homework to a satisfactory standard will receive a point toward the ‘Homework Celebration’ held at the end of each term.
- Students who complete their homework every week will be invited to a special morning tea with the Leadership Team and acknowledged with a certificate.
- Students nominated for Outstanding Commitment Awards each semester must have 100% homework complete.
- 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 11 November 2013 for implementation in 2014.