Gabbinbar State School: Parent Information Statement

Policy: Homework

Statement of Intent:

Each school has a homework policy, developed in consultation with the school community. Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, establish patterns of 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, cultural activities and employment where appropriate.

Homework that enhances student learning:
• is purposeful and relevant to student 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.

Using varied and challenging homework appropriate to students' learning needs

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).

School Community Responsibilities:

Principals:-
• develop a school homework policy, in consultation with their school community, particularly the Parents’ and Citizens’ Association
• distribute the school homework policy to staff, students, and parents and caregivers, particularly at the time of student enrolment
• ensure the homework policy is effectively implemented throughout the school
• include an up-to-date school homework policy as part of their annual school reporting.

Teachers:-
Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:
• ensuring their school's homework policy is implemented
• setting homework on a regular basis
• clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
• checking homework regularly and providing timely and useful feedback
• providing homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs
• explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practise these strategies through homework
• giving consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school-based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework
• discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.
Students:-
Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:
• being aware of the school's homework policy
• discussing homework expectations with their parents or caregivers
• accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
• following up on advice given by teachers
• seeking assistance when difficulties arise
• organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

Role of Parents and Caregivers with Homework:-
Parents and caregivers can help their children by:
• reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity
• helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
• encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning
• encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
• helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities
• contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework
• through their Parents’ and Citizens’ Association, having a key role in the development of a school's homework policy.

New Homework Guidelines:-
New homework guidelines for Queensland State Schools will help children establish a balanced lifestyle that allows time for activities with family and friends. The guidelines provide schools with the chance to develop their own homework policy in consultation with parents, to ensure a common-sense framework for students, teachers and parents. The homework guidelines for different age groups are as follows:
• In the Prep year, generally students will not be set homework.
• Homework in Years 1, 2, 3 could be up to - but generally not more than - an hour each week.
• Homework in Years 4 and 5 could be up to - but generally not more than - 2-3 hours each week.
• Homework in Years 6 and 7 could be up to - but generally not more than - 3-4 hours each week.

Ms Jouwana Habash
Principal
Gabbinbar State School
Policy: Homework

Background:-
Our homework policy is a response to the data collected from parents and teachers on this topic during 2006. Our school community believes that homework is essential in order to keep parents informed of school learning activities and to help students reinforce and consolidate their learning. This policy clarifies our expectations about homework for our whole school community so that we can support student learning and strengthen partnerships.

Purposes of Homework:-
In order of priority, our school community believes that the purpose of homework is:
1. To reinforce and consolidate concepts and learnings occurring at school
2. To develop independence in learning, time management and study skills
3. To inform parents of learning activities done in class and their child’s progress
4. To develop specific skills through regular practice.

Homework Times:-
The following weekly time allocations are recommended in acknowledgement of the range of other pursuits students may be engaged in:
- Preparatory Year – generally no set formal homework tasks
- Years 1 / 2 / 3 – generally not more than one (1) hour each week
- Years 4 / 5 – generally not more than two to three (2-3) hours each week
- Year 6 / 7 – generally not more than three to four (3-4) hours each week

If your child is taking longer to complete tasks, please discuss this with his/her class teacher. The reasons may vary from organisational and resource issues to the level of difficulty and type of task.

Setting Homework:-
Across our school, all classes will provide homework to students on either a daily or weekly basis, dependent on the types of homework task set or year level. Homework will be provided to students on Mondays (i.e. with the exception of public holidays) and is to be completed by Friday of that week. Homework will not be set for weekends or extended holiday periods.

Types of Homework Tasks:-
Homework tasks for Years 1/2/3 may include:
- Daily reading
- Sight words and/or phonics revision
- Spelling activities
- Number facts
- Short revision work sheets

Homework for Years 4/5/6/7 may include:
- Reading
- Writing tasks
- Spelling activities
- Number facts and/or appropriate Maths activities
- Activities that contribute to the completion of class assignments and projects
- Practise for oral presentations

All teachers will consider varying levels of student ability, resources required and the close link to work covered in class. Teachers will mark homework either daily or weekly to provide feedback to both students and parents.
Expectations:-
To ensure high standards are maintained, a minimum level of expectation has been set for all key stakeholders in relation to the completion of homework:

Students:
• are to attempt homework tasks set by their teacher
• are to ensure that any completed or partially completed homework is provided to their teachers at the allocated due time
• are to attempt tasks to the best of their ability

Parents:
• are to support and encourage their children to attempt and complete set homework
• are to communicate any difficulties their children may be experiencing with set homework to their child’s teacher
• are to inform their child’s teacher if set homework is not completed due to extenuating circumstances

Teachers:
• are to set homework that is appropriate for their respective year level, taking in to consideration the broad range of skills and abilities of students
• are to mark and provide feedback to students and parents in a timely fashion
• are to make contact with parents of students who are experiencing difficulties in completing homework within the time allocated

Important Notice:-
Students must complete set homework to a high standard and on a regular and consistent basis to be eligible for the *Gabbinbar Gold Award* as per our *Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students*. 