Statement of Intent

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern 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 pursuits and employment where appropriate.

Homework that enhances student learning:
- Is purposeful and relevant to students needs
- Is appropriate to the phase of learning (early, middle, 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, employment, family and cultural activities.

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 provide timely and useful feedback.
- using 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 practice 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:
- presenting homework in accordance with bookwork expectations
- discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.
The 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.

Homework Tips for Parents
1. Set a regular time and a quiet place for homework.
2. Plan the work to be done and the time to be spent on each task.
3. Take short breaks between tasks.
4. Set small realistic goals for each area.
5. Avoid study marathons.
6. If problems occur, talk to the teacher.
7. Read to young children and ask them to read to you.
8. Encourage students. Praise them for their efforts, not just their results.
9. Talk to the teacher if your child is struggling with the homework.

Homework appropriate to particular phases of learning
The following is to operate as a guide in determining the amount of set homework that students might be expected to undertake. It is of course open to parents to consult with a student’s teacher about additional materials or practice exercises with which parents can assist their children at home. Homework can take on many forms including rote learning, reinforcement of concepts learnt at school, handwriting practice, spelling drills, writing assignments, research, extension activities for some children.

Homework Times:
• Prep Year – generally no set formal homework tasks.
• Years 1/2/3 - generally not more than 1 hour per week.
• Years 4/5 - generally not more than 2-3 hours per week.
• Years 6 - generally not more than 3-4 hours per week.

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

Homework for **Years 4/5/6** may include:
• Daily reading
• Spelling activities
• Number facts and/or appropriate Maths activities
• Practice for oral presentations
* Activities to improve general knowledge skills.

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.