

Guidelines and Procedures

- **Homework is an opportunity to build partnership between school, home and the child. It is also a means of reinforcing learning covered at school.**
- **These guidelines provide direction and guidance to staff and a frame work for discussions with parents on the topic of, setting homework and expectations.**

At Pauatahanui School we ensure:

1. Each team/class provides parents/caregivers with an outline of homework expectations at the beginning of each term.
2. Homework is *relevant* to the individual pupil's needs.
3. Homework provides opportunities to develop positive habits and attitudes to learning. Research shows that homework that engages parents in assisting their children with learning has an enormous positive impact on student outcomes.
4. Homework activities related to learning that is currently being undertaken in the class or are maintenance work for covered in recent months.
5. Homework activities and assessments don't discriminate against pupils who may not have access to specialised resources at home e.g. computers, broadband, etc. If a child requires but has no online access at home the classroom teacher can arrange additional computer time for your child 2-3 times before school from 8.30am.
6. Homework is *clearly* described through written or oral instructions so that pupils and parents/caregivers understand exactly what is involved. Students are encouraged to seek further advice or guidance if clarification is needed, well before homework is due.
7. That parents/caregivers are aware that they have the *right* to have their child/ children excused from homework. That right is at all times respected. If parents/caregivers exercise this right, their child may not make the same learning gains as expected when homework is being used to practice and reinforce learning.
8. Homework is monitored regularly and evaluated by teachers. Homework tasks include:
 - **essential learning tasks** i.e. reading, spelling words, mathsand may if appropriate also include:
 - **completion** of unfinished work.
 - **research** which is easily managed in the home situation.
 - **gathering** of resources and/or data for forthcoming units.
 - **discussion** of current events or class topic/theme.
9. There is a clear understanding between the teacher, child and parent of monitoring procedures, which includes such details as: how homework is to be recorded; what happens if homework isn't done; and how it is to be followed up.

10. As a *general rule*, pupils are not spending more than half an hour on homework per day, (Year 4 to Year 8). However, senior students could do up to an hour if that is how they have chosen to organise their time.
Junior classes homework time will vary considerably, but as a rule up to 20 minutes is the maximum students should be involved in homework 3 to 4 times per week.
11. Parents are welcomed to contact teachers if they have any questions regarding their child's homework.

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