

Our Mission

To develop independent, life long learners with strong foundations of literacy and numeracy through real, student driven, inquiry learning using ICT as a tool.

THE GARDENS SCHOOL HOMEWORK STATEMENT

I'm sure you know the scenario, you have just arrived home, it's late, bedtimes are looming, you have been on the go all day, fitting in dancing, swimming, soccer, parent meetings and all those other commitments and all you can think is 'get the kids to bed and have a moment of peace.....'

Not to be! There is homework, mysteriously leapt from the bag, never mentioned before, due tomorrow, no details – HOMEWORK!

If you have one like mine, there will be no peace until a solution is found to the current dilemma. All my training still finds me in this situation and it has also lead me to doing the homework (mostly) myself, just to get the thing done and the child to bed!!!

How do we avoid this parenting trap whilst still developing the self management skills that homework is essential to help hone?

- Set the time for homework each night and work it in around your schedule
- Make the time appropriate to the child's age and concentration span. If you are uncertain see your child's teacher. No more than 20 minutes up to year 4 (unless the child's LOVING it)
- If your child has a homework contract that spans the week, sit with them on the first evening and plan what they will do each day to work around other events or activities
- Reading is a given! Even when the child no longer comes home with set readers, it is essential that 15 minutes is set aside for either individual reading, reading to or reading with.
- Mathematics is making up a large part of our homework as its success is proven. Even 10 minutes a day will have an impact on the child's understanding.
- Don't get into a battle with your child over homework as it turns homework into a negative that may last for years. STOP if you find you are battling and write a note or talk to the teacher about the situation to try to find a solution.
- Homework includes talking about your child's day with them

Purpose:

Homework serves different purposes at different stages. In the early years the focus should be on the development of basic skills and should encourage children to share what they are learning in class with their parents. As they move up through the school the basic skills they have learnt must be maintained through regular activities such as reading, spelling and basic facts practice. A component of topic-based work can be introduced to support class learning and to encourage the development of skills such as research and presentation. Homework also develops good habits for the future.

School wide expectations for all students at The Gardens School:

The following activities are set to give the students opportunities to practise and maintain important basic skills in the core curriculum areas.

- Reading every night (either a book/reader/poem which has been set by the classroom teacher, or reading material that the student chooses independently)
- Spelling words (individual to each student/group within a class)
- Athletics, basic facts practice and key curriculum tasks set by the classroom teacher

Year Level Information:

As students move up through the school their homework needs change and teachers in teams work together to ensure that what is set is relevant to the needs and abilities of their students, as well as providing a strong link to what is being taught in class at that time.

Rangitoto Team (New Entrant/Y1) – Communication Books will be the main method of setting and monitoring homework. These books may include a reading log, spelling log and any relevant information/activities that teachers would like parents to work on with their children. The Communication Book is a two-way book and parents are welcome to use them to share information with their child's teacher. Junior children might be tired after a busy day at school. Use parental discretion about what they can manage that night e.g. read to them for a change rather than having them read to you.

Motutapu and Maungawhau Teams (Y2-4) – A Communication/Homework Book is used, with continued expectations of regular reading and spelling practice, use of Athletics and the inclusion of simple topic-based activities. Students should be able to complete activities independently or with a small amount of parent input.

Maungarei Team (Y5/6) – Students use a homework book to keep weekly reading and spelling logs and to monitor their Athletics achievements. They will also be expected to complete one topic-based activity each week. Homework is set on a Monday and due back on a Friday.

Maungakiekie Team (Y7/8) – Regular reading, spelling practice and Athletics are expected from all students. Larger project-style homework tasks will be set to support topics being studied in class and/or current events. Homework may include classwork that needs to be completed or require students to choose from other options which may include activities such as research, model-making, interviews, digital presentations, practical application of learning or art.

Key Points

Homework:

- should be completed regularly
- is for the child to do, not the parents
- develops good habits for future education
- if causing stress and arguments- STOP and send a note to school.
- Reading, spelling and Athletics each night.
- Expectations will change as your child moves through school

Make life easy for yourself:

- Try having a set time to do homework
- Have a set place or desk set up with everything that might be needed
- Eat first, homework second.
- If one day is very busy, do extra on another day to fit around out of school activities
- Have a quick look at the homework and help your child to plan the week