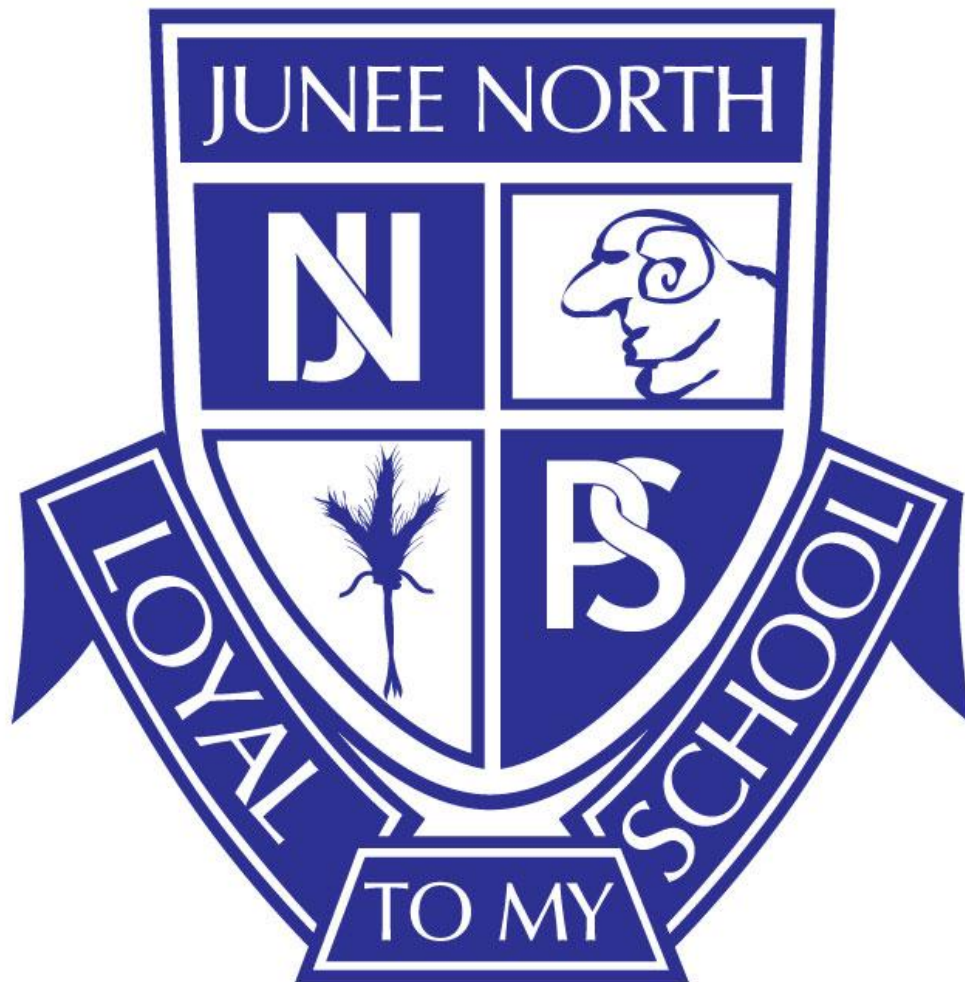




Junee North Public School

Home Learning Policy



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Home Learning Policy

What is Home Learning?

Home Learning refers to any activities that school students are asked to complete outside of lesson time.

Rationale

- Home Learning bridges the gap between learning at school and learning at home.
- It reinforces work done in class
- It helps develop skills such as research and time management
- Home Learning provides challenges and stimulus to students
- Home Learning helps to establish the habits of study, concentration and self discipline
- Parents have the opportunity to see and contribute to the progress of their child

Research

Students report positive attitudes to Home Learning, and feel some Home Learning is important in helping them do well at school. Students who complete Home Learning generally outperform students who do not on some measures of academic achievement. Home Learning can improve students' study skills, improve their attitudes toward school, and demonstrate that learning can take place outside of formal schooling. Research indicates that some Home Learning is better than too much or none at all, however the time spent on Home Learning needs to be responsive to the student's age and development.

Positive parental involvement in Home Learning is associated with higher levels of student achievement. Interactive Home Learning approaches, where the child and parent complete an activity together, can assist in making Home Learning more meaningful for students and their families. When too much Home Learning is set, or when parents use different methods to those taught at school, Home Learning can cause conflict between parents and children. Home Learning can also place stress on family life by reducing family time available for leisure and family activities, and by putting pressure on families to take on undesired roles. Parents can influence the Home Learning environment, through creating appropriate conditions for learning and encouraging their children to complete Home Learning tasks.

It is the policy of JNPS that Home Learning will SUPPLEMENT class programs- not replace them. Children will not be disadvantaged with continuation of learning if they do not complete Home Learning.

There is research evidence to suggest that the following strategies may be particularly helpful:

- Parental communication and involvement
- Devising short, relevant tasks
- Home Learning planners/diaries across a period of time
- Teaching students self-monitoring techniques

In accordance with the NSW DEC Home Learning Policy guidelines, Junee North Home Learning times per night are:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Kindergarten | 10 minutes | Year One | 12 minutes | Year Two | 15 minutes |
| Year Three | 20 minutes | Year Four | 20 minutes | | |
| Year Five | 30 minutes | Year Six | 30 minutes | | |

Basic Rules of Learning

- Home Learning should be appropriate for each student’s stage and ability
- Home Learning should take into account students’ other commitments, such as sport, hobbies and home responsibilities and will be sent home as a grid.
- Home Learning should take into account technology such as email and the Internet so that students without access are not disadvantaged
- Teachers should encourage Home Learning for all students. Teachers should also encourage that Home Learning tasks should be done nightly rather than on one night
- Students should be rewarded for completion of Home Learning rather than punished for non-completion
- Home Learning is to be set regularly –on a weekly or fortnightly cycle as determined by class Teachers
- Home Learning is to be explained clearly to the class when handed out
- Home Learning is to be marked within the week or at a specified date for long term assignments
- Home Learning will be designed in a grid format for consistency across the school. (eg Ian Lillico*)

(* Homework and the Homework Grid – Dr Ian Lillico)

Types of Home Learning

Practice exercises – apply new knowledge or review, revise and reinforce skills.

Preparatory exercises – gain background information on a unit of study.

Extension assignments – encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively.

EXPECTATIONS

Parents and caregivers can help by:

- taking an active interest in Home Learning
- ensuring that there is time set aside for Home Learning
- encouraging and supporting students to complete Home Learning
- providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for Home Learning and study
- encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events
- assisting teachers to monitor Home Learning by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of Home Learning set
- communicating with teachers any concerns about the Home Learning and their children's approach to the Home Learning.

Teachers can help by:

- explaining to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of Home Learning
- ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's Home Learning policy
- providing quality Home Learning activities related to class activities
- setting a suitable amount of relevant Home Learning
- ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- marking Home Learning promptly and appropriately, maintaining Home Learning records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers
- alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their children's Home Learning and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their Home Learning.

Students can help by:

- being aware of the importance of Home Learning
- being aware of their school's Home Learning policy
- completing Home Learning within the given time frame
- alerting parents or caregivers to Home Learning expectations
- seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- showing their Home Learning to their parents or caregivers
- ensuring Home Learning is of a high standard
- organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality Home Learning within set deadlines.