



Homework Policy

This policy has been developed in consultation with the P & C Association. Last reviewed in 2018.

Purpose

Homework serves a number of purposes:

- Reinforcing learning at school:
- Developing the discipline needed in a number of occupations where employees take work home;
- Preparation for High School, where homework is set for most students.

Amount of work

Teachers are not obliged to set homework but usually some work will be expected to be completed at home. The following times would generally be considered by teachers as *upper limits* for the various year levels.

- Upper Primary (Years 5 & 6) 30 – 40 minutes per night Monday to Thursday
- Middle Primary (Years 3 & 4) 20 – 30 minutes per night Monday to Thursday.
- Lower Primary (Years Prep, 1 & 2) 10 – 20 minutes per night Monday to Thursday.

This may vary at the beginning and end of terms.

Type of work

Work will vary from teacher to teacher and year level to year level and often term to term.

Depending on Year level and time of the year, work will usually consist of:

- Learning spelling words
- Learning number facts
- Reading
- Practice of skills – usually relating to Mathematics or English.

Other work may be research for class work (e.g. interviewing a relative, collecting information about breakfast cereals), organising materials for a class activity (e.g. favourite toy, empty carton)

Reading

Younger children are encouraged to participate in our Home Reader program, where children take home books chosen to match their reading level. (Volunteers are helpful to manage this program.)

Where children are independent readers, they are encouraged to read for pleasure and have weekly access to the school library for a wide range of books that can be read at home. If it is possible to set aside fifteen minutes before bed each night for this purpose, attitudes toward reading and literature generally will be greatly enhanced.

Does my child have to do homework?

Your child is strongly encouraged to do their homework for the reasons listed at the beginning of this document.

The practice of spelling and number facts at home releases time for other learning at school. Reading is a life-long habit that is worth encouraging.

The school endeavours to work with parents on this matter as parent opinions vary greatly. Teachers offer homework on an 'opt in' basis and will work with families around enforcing the completion of set work.

Where homework is preparation for class work, the school requests parent cooperation, to ensure that individuals are not disadvantaged by not having the necessary items/information.

How do I get help for homework issues?

Teachers do not always get the homework quite right. If you have issues, please contact the teacher.

The school believes that the older children in the school should be taking more responsibility for their own work and should be encouraged by you to approach the teacher by themselves, in the first instance.