



## Homework Policy

### Rationale and Beliefs:

Homework for primary school children should be minimal, in order that a balance of play, rest and exercise can be achieved. In the early years homework should largely be informal and non-compulsory. As children move towards the upper primary years they should progressively be exposed to more structured homework requirements in order to facilitate a smooth transition to secondary school through the development of good study habits. Homework should always be seen as a vehicle to enhance student learning outcomes and foster positive school/home partnerships.

### Alternatives to Homework Which Support Student Learning in all Year Levels:

- cooking [learning to cook is a great life skill for children to learn and helps with their maths, reading etc.]
- reading stories at bedtime
- board games, card games, dice games
- outdoor games and activities
- play charades and other drama type activities
- reading newspapers and magazines
- watch news and current affairs on TV together and talk about the issues
- do crosswords, puzzles and jigsaws
- use technology (where available) for purposes such as searching for information that support classroom themes and/or activities

### Time Allocations and Nature of Homework:

The following statements provide a uniform approach to homework at Rossmoyne Primary School. They articulate a clear position to parents and teachers about expectations and have been developed in consultation with all parties.

- Pre-primary to Year 2 - No formal homework is set but daily reading at home is strongly encouraged for 10-20 minutes. This should involve children reading to parents, parents reading to and with children and children reading independently. Practising of sight words and spelling words may also be expected. Counting numbers and number based games can effectively assist with numeracy. In addition there may be occasional incidental homework to support classroom activities.
- Years 3 and 4 - No formal homework set but 20 minutes of daily reading and practising basic number facts is strongly encouraged. This should involve a combination of children reading to parents, parents reading to and with children and children reading independently. Practising of sight words and spelling words may also be expected. Games involving numbers and mental calculations whilst shopping and travelling can effectively assist with numeracy. Helping younger siblings can also benefit both parties. In addition there may be occasional incidental homework to support classroom activities and students may be asked to finish off work that has had adequate school time devoted to it but remains incomplete.
- Year 5 and 6 - 20 minutes of daily independent reading is strongly encouraged. Parents are still encouraged to read to and with children. Games involving numbers and mental calculations whilst shopping and travelling can effectively assist with numeracy.

In addition to reading, Year 5 students work towards an established routine of between 20 to 30 minutes of set homework on Mondays to Thursdays.

In addition to reading, Year 6 students work towards an established routine of between 30 to 45 minutes of set homework on Mondays and Thursday.

The set homework may include:

- finishing off work that has had adequate school time devoted to it but remains incomplete
- incidental and specific tasks to support classroom learning
- practising number facts
- targeted activities to reinforce new concepts

Students who don't complete the required homework without an acceptable reason may be asked to complete it in their free time at school.

Students who miss work due to extra-curricular commitments such as PEAC, IMSS or sporting activities may be asked to complete work they missed, in addition to the set homework.

Through classroom learning experiences and homework, Year 5 and 6 staff will support students to develop the following:

- organisation and time management skills
- effective study habits and skills
- effective research and note taking skills

Some students have particular learning needs. On occasions, it can be useful to support these students with targeted specific activities designed to reinforce or develop a concept. Teachers and parents can work together to negotiate such activities always based on the premise of encouraging and supporting the child not pushing them beyond their limits.

**Recording of Homework:**

Year 1 to 6 students will record any formal homework they are required to complete in their Student Diaries.

**Teacher Feedback:** When homework is set it is expected that students will be provided with appropriate feedback from the teacher.

This policy was endorsed by the School Board on 20 August 2018.

Next review – 2021.