



Comleroy Road Public School

**Homework
Policy & Procedures**

RATIONALE

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.

At Comleroy Road Public School, we also recognise the importance of a balanced lifestyle that incorporates rest, sporting teams, community groups, tuition, home responsibilities and most importantly, play. Students will participate in a range of activities and have diverse experiences outside of school hours that may enhance their learning. Experiences and activities at home and in other planned family experiences that help to create a rich learning environment for children are to be encouraged.

POLICY STATEMENT

A Homework Policy itself is compulsory, however the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year levels are not. For the purposes of the department's Homework Policy, homework is defined as any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals.

IMPLEMENTATION

In response to student, staff and community feedback, homework will be made available to all students.

At the beginning of each year the class teacher will inform parents/carers of the homework routine and procedures. Each classroom teacher will communicate the day of the week homework is sent home and when it is expected to be returned. If parents experience any difficulties with the homework procedures they are asked to see the class teacher to negotiate an alternative arrangement.

Homework may come from a range of activities that may include completion of class work, additional formal bookwork and tasks in English and mathematics, reading, research, observation and data collection, designing and making and practising. Homework should be purposeful and meet specific learning goals.

From time to time, students may be issued a long term assignment or research project. This may incorporate research on a topic to be presented by a speech, poster, written text, PowerPoint or model. Teachers will issue specific guidelines as to the completion of these tasks. They should include areas of student choice and be engaging to student interest.

There are many activities that families can do that support learning.

- Reading to your child
- Talking and listening to your child. Discuss family activities and plan them together
- Write letters, birthday cards or invitations together
- Play board games
- Measuring and counting activities when shopping or cooking
- Sporting activities and lessons

- Music or art tuition

EXPECTATIONS

Outlined below are the expectations that the school has for weekly homework from Kindergarten to Year 6. The information is intended as a guide for parents and carers.

Kindergarten

During the first year of primary education the homework focus is on encouraging students to practice the fundamental reading, writing and mathematical skills learnt in class and to develop a love of reading.

- Homework will be sent home when the class teacher feels students are ready to start working towards independently practicing foundational skills learnt in class. It is expected that homework in Kindergarten should take no longer than 10 minutes a day.
- Reading - students are expected to read for at least 5 minutes each day. A home reader is sent home each day and it is suggested that parents and carers share in this reading time with their child/children.
- Activities will vary but may include phonics, reading, sight word practice, spelling, handwriting, counting, recognising numbers, addition, subtraction, sharing, grouping.
- Homework activities may include educational computer websites (Reading Eggs, Mathletics, Studyladder) or apps on devices.
- Students in Kindergarten are also encouraged to build their independence and responsibility by helping around the home and taking more responsibility for their personal care needs.

Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2)

Students in Year 1 and 2 are encouraged to strengthen their foundational literacy and numeracy knowledge in their homework, but are not expected to engage in lengthy or complex tasks. Homework should take no longer than 15 minutes a day

- Reading - students are expected to read for 5-10 minutes each day. A home reader is sent home each day and it is suggested that parents and carers share in this reading time with their child.
- Activities will vary but may include phonics, sentence writing, sight word practice, spelling, basic mathematics facts, times tables.
- Homework activities may include educational computer websites (Reading Eggs, Mathletics, Studyladder) or apps on devices.
- Students in Year 1 and 2 are also encouraged to strengthen their independence and responsibilities by routinely undertaking tasks around the home and taking more responsibility for their personal care needs such as packing and unpacking their bag etc.

Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4)

Students are encouraged to extend their foundational literacy and numeracy knowledge in their homework. Homework should be an average of 20 – 30 minutes per day, however assignments may require more time on some days and less on others.

- Reading – students are expected to read for 10-15 minutes each day.
- Homework tasks can vary but may include revision of basic mathematics facts, times tables, writing tasks and spelling.

- Homework assignments may include research and will have a maximum timeframe of 4 weeks.
- Homework activities may include educational computer websites (Reading Eggs, Mathletics, Studyladder) or apps on devices.
- Students in Years 3 and 4 are also encouraged to strengthen their independence and responsibilities by being assigned weekly tasks around the home.

Stage 3 (Year 5 and 6)

Students are encouraged to extend their foundational literacy and numeracy knowledge in their homework. In the last years of primary education the homework focus is also on encouraging students to develop an ability to inquire, challenge, formulate ideas and present conclusions in preparation for the sorts of activities they will face in high school.

- Homework should be an average of 30 – 40 minutes per day, however assignments may require more time on some days and less on others.
- Reading – students are expected to read for 15-20 minutes each day.
- Homework tasks can vary but may include revision of basic mathematics facts, times tables, writing tasks and spelling.
- Homework assignments may include research, surveys or watching and reporting back on specified educational TV programs. Assignments will have a maximum timeframe of 4 weeks.
- Homework activities may include educational computer websites (Reading Eggs, Mathletics, Studyladder) or apps on devices.
- Students in Years 5 and 6 are also encouraged to strengthen their independence and responsibilities by being assigned daily tasks around the home.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Principal

- Develop a Homework Policy, in consultation with their school community.
- Communicate the Homework Policy to staff, students, parents/carers.
- Monitor and support teachers in the implementation of the Homework Policy.
- Ensure that homework is consistent with the school's learning goals.
- Support the need for balance between homework and the many other commitments in students' lives.
- Provide mechanisms for teachers and parents/carers to communicate about homework.
- Recognise that some parents/carers may not agree with the school policy on homework. This may necessitate the development of alternative strategies.

Students

- Complete homework tasks to the best of their ability.
- Seek assistance from the class teacher if there are concerns with homework tasks.
- Take responsibility for their own learning. Think critically and creatively when undertaking homework tasks.

Staff

- Implement the school's Homework Policy.
- Communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to students and parents/carers.

- Acknowledge student effort in completing homework and provide timely and relevant feedback on achievement.
- Ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for students.
- Support students having difficulties with homework.
- Discuss with students and parents/carers any developing issues regarding a student's homework.
- Discuss homework practices with colleagues.

Parents

- Provide a suitable area where students can complete homework tasks without distractions
- Encourage and support your child with their homework - but don't do the work for them.
- Discuss any concerns you have about homework with the school.
- Let the school know if you don't agree with its homework policy and discuss alternative strategies.

MONITORING, EVALUATING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it is relevant to the needs of the school and its community.