



# Spencer Park Primary School Homework Policy (2000)

## RATIONALE

Learning is an ongoing, every day process that does not cease at student departure from school. It requires students reinforcing what they have learnt by “practising” through a variety of activities. Some of these can be done at home which also enhances the relationship between the school and home.

Purposeful homework complements the school program when it is used to consolidate (knowledge and skills) and extend (remediate or complete set) classwork.

## BELIEFS

Homework should:

1. Reflect what has been taught in class (it should not require the acquisition of new concepts)
2. Support teaching/learning strategies
3. Be appropriate for age and level of development
4. Have minimum impact on the quality of the student’s after school activities
5. In the senior years, enhance the development of study skills

## ORGANISATION

1. Homework is defined as any activity, set by a teacher, that a student is expected to carry out at home under the guidance or with the support of the parent/guardian.
2. Teachers have the responsibility to notify the parents of their class, in writing, of their classroom policy at the commencement of each year. The aim should be to have this task completed by mid Term 1.
3. Having set any form of homework it is expected that teachers will analyse student performance and then complete follow up activities as soon as possible, preferably the next day.

### YEARS 1, 2 & 3

1. It is expected that all year 1-3 students will engage in reading tasks at home on a daily basis (except weekends).
2. Teachers may set homework from other curriculum areas.
3. No student should be expected to spend more than 15 minutes per night on any given homework.
4. Parents are requested to support this by encouraging their child/ren to complete set tasks and liaise with teachers if there are any concerns.

### YEARS 4 & 5

1. Students are required to do a maximum of 15 to 20 minutes of homework per night if it has been set. This excludes weekends when no homework should be set.
2. Homework activities may include:
  - Home Reader reading each night
  - Working on unfinished in-class activities
  - Undertaking special activities which may require some research
  - Locating and collecting information and resources required for class activity
  - Special assigned tasks across the curriculum
  - Basic Number Facts
  - How to use a diary activities

Note: These exclude sports and special music instrumental practices.

### YEARS 6 & 7

1. Students in year 6 and 7 should complete a maximum of 30mins per night. (This is an average over a week.)
2. Homework activities may include:
  - Reading each night for 10 minutes. (Novels, short stories, newspapers, magazines.)
  - Working on unfinished in-class activities
  - Undertaking special activities which may require some research

- Locating and collecting information and resources required for class activity
  - Special assigned tasks across the curriculum
  - Basic Number Facts
  - How to use a diary activities
3. Parent contact regarding homework will be individualised according to the class teacher's policy set at the start of the year. With this close liaison between all concerned (parents, student and teacher) any problems should be resolved.
  4. Parents should provide either a verbal or written explanation as to why a student couldn't do set homework. In this way effective communication will occur.
  5. Parents should encourage the development of effective study skills. This may include the use of a diary.

## **EVALUATION - ASSESSMENT**

As the school report has a section for reporting on Homework, teachers will be required to:

- identify and record student problems with any concepts in the set homework
- monitor all students to ascertain which students do and do not complete homework activities

## **GENERAL**

Students in years 4 to 7 are encouraged to complete all set homework but should not be sanctioned for not doing so. However, there should be close liaison between teacher, student and parent to ensure that valid reasons for incomplete homework are established.

