



Richmond Primary School Homework Policy

At Richmond Primary School, we acknowledge that the time children spend with their families and their involvement in out of hours activities are important components of the development of the whole child. Activities such as art lessons, sports practices, cultural activities, out of school hours care, the learning of a language, tutoring, church and youth clubs etc are all considered to be valuable learning activities that place additional demands on family time. *We believe all children should be physically active after school. This may include sport team practice and playing, walking the dog and playground games.*

What is Homework?

Homework is any work or task set by a class or subject teacher that is to be completed by the student outside of normal school hours.

Homework needs to be relevant to the students' current learning if it is to be of benefit. Students need to understand what is expected of them and the reasons why the homework tasks are set. This is the role of the class teacher.

Homework can assist in:

- the development of time management and organisational skills
- consolidating new concepts learnt
- keeping parents in touch with the kinds of work their children are doing at school
- providing a link between parents, students and teachers.

In order that out-of-school activities can be fostered within families, our teachers support homework that can be completed over a period of time.



Homework may consist of:

- reading
- completing tasks that were not completed in class time
- 'practice' tasks which will give students a chance to consolidate newly learned concepts
- set tasks or 'longer-term' contracts which will have negotiated time frames
- a home or community based activity.

Homework can support student learning. It should never be too onerous or stressful. It can provide an opportunity for students to take responsibility for their own learning and can help to establish routines and sound study habits. Students are only ever expected to do what parents consider is a reasonable effort within a designated time frame. Sometimes this may mean a child is not able to completely finish a task. This is fine as long as the parent deems an appropriate effort has been expended. Likewise some students greatly enjoy homework. They choose to spend far more time and effort than is asked of them. Such enthusiasm is acknowledged, but not encouraged. Children need time to be children.

How parents can help

The help and support of parents is important to a student's enjoyment and completion of homework. Parents can help by:

- encouraging students to take homework seriously
- setting the scene at home and acknowledging that a set time is dedicated to homework
- providing a 'study' place that is quiet, pleasant and comfortable, with good lighting and ventilation
- helping your child to acquire any resources they may need for any independent research, by taking them to visit local libraries, etc
- knowing your child's deadlines so you can encourage them to meet these
- providing your child's teacher with prompt feedback if your child is experiencing any difficulties.

* *While parents are encouraged to take an interest in their child's homework and support them when necessary, it is important not to complete the homework for them.*



How much homework and how often?

The following are guidelines as to how much and how often homework will be set.

Reception to Year 2

Junior Primary students are asked to carry out short tasks like regularly reading to a family member, learning sight words or finding things at home.

Year 3

Students should read every night. Up to 20 minutes on one night a week may be set aside for formal tasks.

Year 4

Students should read every night. Up to 20 minutes on two nights per week may be set aside for formal tasks.

Year 5

Students should read every night. Up to 20 minutes on three nights per week may be set aside for formal tasks.

** At year 5 all students learn a musical instrument and are expected to practise at least 10 minutes a day for a minimum of 4 nights.*

Year 6

Students should read every night. Up to 30 minutes on three nights per week may be set aside for formal tasks.

** Students in years 6 and 7 who continue to learn a musical instrument are expected to increase their practice time according to their level of expertise. (eg 20-30 minutes per day 5 days per week.)*



Year 7

Students should read every night. Up to 30 minutes on four nights per week may be set aside for formal tasks.

Diaries or Communication Books

Diaries or Communication Books are an important part of the homework process. All students will be issued with a diary or communication book at the beginning of the year. They will be used to inform both students and parents of homework set as well as indicating if homework has not been set. Diaries and Communication Books must be regularly signed by both parents and teachers.

Roles

Students will:

- ensure they know what homework is required of them each evening and complete their tasks
- let their teacher know if they don't understand the set task
- record their homework task in their diary or communication book
- meet the timeline for the task
- negotiate with their teacher any adjustments to set deadlines.

Teachers will:

- set appropriate homework for students
- communicate the expectations of the task so students have a clear understanding
- monitor that homework is completed appropriately and on time
- provide feedback to the student
- report on homework where appropriate
- contact parents as soon as possible when homework is not being completed.

Parents will:



- provide a suitable workspace, appropriate resources, encouragement and guidance
- communicate any homework issues to the teacher
- sign the diary or communication book when required.

Parents are reminded that there are many activities based on material around the home that can be used to form valuable learning experiences and help with your child's education

- *reading to and with your child*
- *listening to reading*
- *discussing the days events, television programs*
- *cooking – reading instructions, measuring ingredients*
- *time – digital and analogue*
- *money – recognition of, spending*
- *colouring in – hand eye coordination*
- *skipping to improve coordination*
- *caring for pets*
- *tying shoe laces*
- *learn address and telephone number*
- *writing letters to relatives and friends*
- *the calendar – months of the year, day in each month*
- *measuring – mass, distance*
- *visits to the local library*
- *participating in sports and community organisations such as scouts*
- *board games*

Conclusion

Homework should not cause worry or stress, or be too onerous for the student. If homework proves to be a problem, parents need to communicate those problems with the teacher via the diary, communication book or by personal contact.

If unfinished homework becomes an issue, teachers will contact parents to discuss the matter as soon as possible. In this way they will determine the main reasons for not completing homework and strategies to support individuals to complete the tasks set.