



HOMEWORK POLICY

This policy has been developed by members of School Council.

Date written:	2004	Date reviewed:	2015
School Council Ratified:	Nov 2015	Next review:	2018

PURPOSE

Rosanna Primary School acknowledges the significant role parents play in their children's learning and the way in which many informal family activities encourage and support learning which takes place at school.

The homework policy endeavours to encourage and foster the continuation of parental involvement in children's learning. It is an important link in the communication between teachers, students and parents.

DET Homework Guidelines State That Homework:

PREP TO 4

- Should not be seen as a chore.
- Enables the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering of extra information or materials.
- Will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings.
- Will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day or be set on weekends or during vacations.

YEAR 5 TO 6

- Should include daily independent reading.
- Should be coordinated across subjects to avoid unreasonable workloads for students.
- May extend class work, projects and assignments, written work and research.
- Will generally range from 30 to 45 minutes a day

POLICY STATEMENT

We recognise that:

- Homework supports students by complementing, reinforcing and extending classroom experiences and ultimately assists students to develop responsibility for their own learning and organisation in preparation for the demands of further education.
- Children need to have a balanced lifestyle and believe that formal homework is only one part of a child's development. It is important for them to have time to take part in different activities with parents and friends and to explore and develop other interests.
- Homework will:
 - Be appropriate to the students' skills level and age.
 - Be beneficial, relevant and purposeful, complementing classroom programs.
 - Consist of reading for all students, each day.
 - Be related to units of work where appropriate.
 - Allow for flexibility for students as required and in consultation with parents.
 - Be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
 - Be modified to meet the need of individual students where teachers identify a need.
 - Include tasks/activities familiar to students. Students will have covered or been introduced to the concept/strategy in class before homework is sent home.
 - Include tasks that require the students to take learning beyond the classroom and into real life settings.
 - be designed to offer positive interactions between family members and provide an opportunity for families to share in learning.
 - Not be assigned for completion over the weekend or school holiday period.

IMPLEMENTATION

Homework At Each Level Of The School May Consist Of:

Year Prep (Foundation)

- Recommended Home activities.
- Home reading each night (10 minutes).
- Word Study (not formally set – however parents can choose appropriate times to practise).

Years 1 and 2

- Home reading each night (15 minutes).
- A Numeracy task.
- Spelling or word study tasks
- Inquiry research

Years 3 and 4

- Home reading each night (minimum of 15 minutes).
- A Numeracy task which may include an assigned Mathematics task (for those children with access to the internet at home).
- Literacy tasks that could include spelling, word study or a writing task related to classroom learning and the current Inquiry Unit.
- Inquiry investigations
- Completion of unfinished work

Years 5 and 6

- Home reading each night (minimum 20 minutes.)
- A Numeracy task which may include an assigned Mathematics task (for those children with access to the internet at home).
- Literacy tasks that could include spelling, word study, or a writing task related to classroom learning (approximately 45 minutes in total, per week).
- 'Project' or Inquiry work – may be sent home from time to time and will be balanced with the Mathematics/Literacy portion of homework in those weeks.
- Completion of unfinished work or extension work for individual students.

RESPONSIBILITIES

For homework to be effective and meaningful, teachers, parents, and students must share the responsibility for developing and maintaining good homework practices.

TEACHER

- Explain to students the purpose and connection/s or links of the homework task to classroom work.
- Provide homework that is clear, meaningful and purposeful.
- Provide support to parents and students on establishing effective homework routines.
- Monitor and provide timely feedback for students on homework tasks through classroom sharing and reflection time.
- Negotiate modified homework for students who require alternative tasks/practice to ensure they are developing strategies appropriate to their abilities and progress.
- Promote creativity and thinking and where appropriate set open-ended tasks.
- Communicate homework expectations to parents each term.

PARENT

- Ensure homework is completed each week.
- Communicate promptly with the teacher when homework concerns arise.
- Provide encouragement and appropriate support without doing the homework for the student.
- Provide an environment (both place and time) that is suitable for homework.
- Support regular home reading and ask questions relating to the text where applicable.
- Help balance the amount of time spent between homework, extra curricula and recreational activities.
- Speak with their child's teacher if they feel their child requires more/less homework.
- Organising and correcting extra homework beyond the above guidelines will be the responsibility of parents, however teachers are happy to consult with parents on what sort of work might be appropriate for their child.

STUDENT

- Ensure that they understand the homework tasks and ask for clarification if needed.
- Ask for help if more assistance is needed.
- Complete homework regularly.
- Return their Home Reading record and their Homework on the required day/s.

Following Up Unfinished Homework (Teachers)

For students who do not complete homework regularly and without explanation from a parent the following guidelines will apply:

Year Prep (Foundation)

- Homework, other than home reading each night, is not formally set at Level 1 (Prep).
- It is worthwhile to note however, that research shows that students who read regularly at home with an adult, are read to by an adult or who participate in shared reading at home, make significantly more progress in all areas of learning during their Prep year.

Years 1 and 2

- Parents will be notified to discuss the issue if students regularly do not return homework tasks.
- This communication will include opportunities to reinforce to the child and parents that the school values the practice of daily home reading and that we recognise research that shows that students who read regularly at home generally achieve higher learning outcomes than those who do not.

Years 3 and 4

- The Classroom Teacher will call home in the second instance of no homework being handed in and will explain to parents that on the third occasion (without notification from the parent) that their child will be required to spend 15 minutes at the beginning of lunchtime on the day homework was due – reading silently OR working on a set task from the homework in a learning space supervised by a teacher.
- This communication will include opportunities to reinforce to the child and parents that the school values the practice of daily home reading and developing good homework routines, and that we recognise research that show that students who read regularly at home generally achieve higher learning outcomes than those who do not.

Years 5 and 6

- The Classroom Teacher will call home in the second instance of no homework being handed in and will explain to parents that on the third occasion (without notification from the parent) that their child will be required to spend 15 minutes at the beginning of lunchtime on the day homework was due – working on an activity from the set homework, in a learning space supervised by a teacher.
- This communication will include opportunities to reinforce to the child and parents that the school values the practice of developing good homework routines and for a teacher to speak with them about how to be prepared and organised for the transition to Secondary School.

Homework beyond DET Guidelines

EXTENSION' HOMEWORK FOR STUDENTS

- Individualised extension homework will not be set or provided by teachers.
- It is parent choice for children to do activities further than the assigned homework tasks, and parents are responsible for organising and correcting any extra activities. Parents

may consult teachers as to what might be appropriate for their child –however teachers are not required to provide or correct extra work/activities/work sheets in such cases.

STUDENTS REQUIRING FURTHER SUPPORT

- Where a teacher recognises that a student needs further support or assistance with set homework tasks – they will contact the child’s parents to discuss alternative home activities specifically designed to address their child’s areas for improvement to ensure that they are developing skills and strategies applicable to their expected level.

EXTENDED FAMILY HOLIDAYS/EXTENDED ABSENCES

- Students who do not attend school to attend an extended family holiday during a school Term will be asked to keep a ‘Holiday Journal’ where they document their experiences each day while they are away.
- This may include writing, pictures, diagrams, tracking the distance travelled, mapping, photos, communication with the class etc. and can be shared with their class when they return after their holiday.

EXTENDED ILLNESS

- Teachers are able to provide work for students who must stay home from school for more than 5 school days due to an illness/medical reasons.
- Parents are required to contact their child’s teacher to request that work be sent home and to talk about the practicalities of completing such work in relation to the child’s illness/injury.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The Rosanna Primary School Homework Policy will be reviewed as per School Council Policy. School Council will evaluate its relevance in line with DET guidelines and community expectations as represented by parent members on School Council.

REFERENCES

DET information and guidelines

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/learning/Pages/homework.aspx>

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Policy

This document can be found at:
USER:/Policies/Ratified Policies