



***Floreat Park Primary School | An Independent Public School***

## ***Homework Policy***

Ratified by

Date

School Board

October 2018

Review Date

October 2020





## Homework Policy 2018

### RATIONALE

Over the years there have been many studies as to the effectiveness of homework for improved learning at a primary school level. These studies have reached different and sometimes contradictory conclusions<sup>1</sup>.

The benefits of homework include academic benefits but also development of good study habits. However the detractors of homework believe that there is limited academic benefit and instead placed unnecessary pressure on children. This homework policy attempts to take a balanced view of both sides of the discussion as well as the environment and culture of our school.

At Floreat Park Primary school, we believe that homework is for purposeful out of class learning that seeks to enhance and consolidate in-class learning, explore new ideas, practise and reinforce non-academic skills and develop good study habits. Homework also allows parents to gain insight into what their child is doing in class. The focus of homework is on positive learning outcomes, and not to put additional burdens on students or families.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ❖ We recognise that successful learning is a collaboration between the student, parents and the school, especially in the early years. Where possible, parents will be provided information in order to support their child at home, and the school welcomes feedback from parents regarding homework.
- ❖ We recognise that students who attend Floreat Park may have extra curricular activities before and/or after school, hence homework should be set to allow sufficient time to complete any homework task.
- ❖ While some studies have concluded that there is limited value in homework for students in Kindy - Yr2, we at Floreat Primary School believe that developing reading skills at this age is a cornerstone to future success. Parent involvement in supporting the development of reading skills is critical.
- ❖ Homework tasks should be clearly explained to students with sufficient instructions outlining the purpose, suggestions as to how best the assignment may be carried out, the success criteria and timeline.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.teachermagazine.com.au/articles/does-homework-contribute-to-student-success>



- ❖ Wherever possible, students in years 3 - 6 should be able to work on their homework independently.
- ❖ Homework will consolidate the skills and concepts which have been learnt at school and extend the time available for the exploration of new ideas and situations.
- ❖ Homework in upper primary should encourage students to manage their time and work independently in order to prepare for high school. We encourage students to use a diary/journal to assist with homework requirements.
- ❖ Homework should be consistently applied, monitored and assessed across year levels, as well as in a whole-school approach that is responsive to individual needs and learning area requirements.
- ❖ Homework should be checked, at minimum for completeness, by the teacher on the due date. Parents will be informed if homework expectations are not being met by the student.
- ❖ Homework may include activities to support non-academic school programs such as personal development (eg. Bounceback) or community programs.
- ❖ Homework may include the use of technology to consolidate concepts learnt in class and extend learning (eg. Mathletics; Excel test zone; Bug Club; Language Perfect (Italian)).
- ❖ Homework should only be used to facilitate the achievement of learning outcomes.

### **GUIDELINES**

Teachers will inform parents of school homework policy procedures, appropriate time commitments and expectations at parent meeting in first term.

The time spent on homework depends on the student and the homework for that week, and may vary according to specific tasks and their associated timelines, which in turn encourage students to learn to manage their homework commitment efficiently.

A normal homework week is Monday to Thursday. Students are not expected to complete homework on Fridays, weekends or public holidays, although they may choose to complete assigned work during that time.



The following is a guide as to the time commitment and homework tasks that may be given by the teacher:

Year level	Suggested time	Examples of Appropriate Homework Tasks
<b>Kindergarten and Pre-primary</b>	10 minutes per night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nightly reading - including library books, comprehension books and take-home readers</li> <li>• High frequency words development</li> <li>• Phonics and Maths skills</li> <li>• Preparation of News (Pre-primary)</li> </ul>
<b>Year 1 and 2</b>	10-15 minutes per night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phonics, spelling and word recognition practice</li> <li>• Nightly oral reading, silent reading, reading for pleasure, adult reading to child</li> <li>• Practice and reinforcement of number facts</li> <li>• Preparation of News</li> <li>• Non-academic activities</li> </ul>
<b>Years 3 and 4</b>	20-30 minutes per night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice of mathematics concepts taught in class</li> <li>• Nightly reading</li> <li>• Exposure to research and problem/solving tasks</li> <li>• Journal writing</li> <li>• Learning spelling words</li> <li>• Non-academic activities</li> <li>• Online learning opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Year 5 and 6</b>	30-40 minutes per night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nightly reading</li> <li>• Practice and reinforcement exercises arising from classwork</li> <li>• Short and longer-term tasks that develop time management skills</li> <li>• Book reviews</li> <li>• Work that involves research and investigatory skills</li> <li>• Puzzles and problem-solving challenges</li> <li>• Completing classwork.</li> <li>• Non-academic activities</li> <li>• Online learning opportunities.</li> </ul>



### **GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS**

Assisting your child with their homework at home:

- Provide your child with a quiet time and place to do homework.
- Show a genuine interest in your child's homework and become involved, but refrain from doing it for them.
- Establish a homework routine and be aware of homework procedures, e.g. Reading Folder, Homework Diary, Spelling Journal.
- Ensure that your child has the tools necessary to complete the homework, e.g. pens, pencils, calculator, ruler, eraser, glue, scissors and paper.
- Keep in touch with your Child's Teacher, especially if difficulties are experienced.
- Supervised access to the internet may assist students engaged in research tasks.