

# PORT CURTIS ROAD STATE SCHOOL

## HOMWORK POLICY



### **Rationale**

It is a legislative requirement that all Queensland schools have a homework policy, developed in consultation with the School Community.

### **General Principles**

At Port Curtis Road State School we recognise that homework provides students with opportunities to:

- consolidate their classroom learning,
- pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and
- involve family members in student learning.

We value homework that:

- enhances and consolidates student learning
- is purposeful and relevant to student needs
- is appropriate to the phase of learning (early or middle)
- is appropriate to the capability of the student
- develops the student's independence as a learner
- is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- consolidates basic literacy and numeracy skills
- allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities
- communicates to parents/carers current classroom activities

### **Guidelines**

Our school community recognises that the homework requirements for students will vary according to year level, school and community commitments, a child's individual learning needs and the classroom focus at any given time. Set homework is intended to engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practising for mastery)
- applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue)
- pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing,
- designing, making)
- preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information).

The following is the guide our classroom teachers refer to in determining the amount of set homework that they might expect students to undertake. It is of course open to parents to consult with a student's teacher about additional materials or practice exercises with which parents can assist their children at home.

### **Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3)**

- Written homework will generally not be set on weekends.
- In Prep and Years 1, 2 and 3 set homework could be up to but generally not more than 1 hour per week. Many activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills. Homework tasks may include:
  - daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or other family members
  - linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
  - conversations about what is happening at school eg. preparation for oral presentations, opportunities to write for meaningful purposes
  - collections of items to enhance student outcomes eg. craft materials, reference materials, pictures or props etc.
  - learning number facts, spelling, word recognition to achieve a mastery level



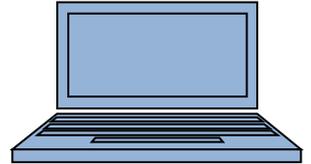
### **Middle Phase (Year 4 to Year 6)**

- Homework in Year 4 and Year 5 could be up to but generally not more than 2-3 hours per week.
- Homework in Year 6 could be up to but generally not more than 3-4 hours per week.
- Written homework will generally not be set on weekends.
- Some homework can be completed daily or over a weekly or fortnightly period and may include:
  - daily independent reading
  - extension of class work, projects and research
  - learning number facts and spelling to a mastery level

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Teachers:**

- Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:
  - ensuring their school's homework policy is implemented
  - setting homework on a regular basis
  - clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework.
  - checking homework regularly and providing timely and useful feedback.
  - using homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs.
  - explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practise these strategies through homework
  - giving consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework
  - discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.
  - Modelling smart, safe responsible use of digital technology.



#### **Students:**

- Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:
  - discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations
  - accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
  - following up on comments made by teachers
  - seeking assistance when difficulties arise
  - organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports and recreational and cultural activities.
  - follow smart, safe responsible use of digital technology

Should a student consistently fail to complete their homework they will not be able to progress to the next behaviour level.

#### **Parents and Caregivers:**

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- showing a positive interest in their classroom work and achievements
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games, internet usage and physical activity
- awareness of the Internet and Technology Policy
- helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning
- encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, internet usage, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to homework.