



# Homework Policy

## 2014

### The value of homework

Research evidence suggests that a carefully thought out and implemented homework programme produces higher levels of student achievement, and can enhance the student's growing independence as a learner. Homework is valuable as it provides an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning, and encourages them to reach and maintain goals. It assists them to develop organisation and time management skills, self-discipline and skills in using out of school resources. It is an opportunity for parents to keep in touch and support what their child is doing in school. It will also reinforce the knowledge and skills learnt at school.

### Homework Principles

- Homework should be relevant to the curriculum and be age appropriate.
- Homework should be acknowledged and assessed by teachers.
- It is the responsibility of the parent in partnership with the teacher to monitor and support their child's homework.
- Failure to complete homework on a regular basis should be followed up with parents, e.g. phone call, diary, note etc.
- Good communication between home and school is extremely important, as there will be times when special circumstances need to be taken into account, for example sporting or family commitments.

### Operational Procedures

Moranbah State School has identified its expectations of the amount of time they believe should be spent on homework per week. These are outlined as guidelines only for teachers to use or for parents who require assistance in relation to determining what a suitable amount of time for homework is.

Year Levels	Amount of time per/week
Prep	Not compulsory * Teachers may provide the option of home readers, sight words, or other short tasks
Years 1/2	Up to 1 Hour
Year 3	Up to 1.5 Hours
Year 4,5	Up to 2 Hours
Year 6,7	Up to 2.5 Hours

Parents may choose for their child(ren) to have a modified Homework Program. This should be done in consultation with the class teacher (and Special Needs teacher if applicable).

Homework will begin on the first week of every term. Homework will not be sent home on the last week of each term.

### Homework Practices

#### Years 1 – 3:

- Home reading of teacher provided books
- Home reading of individual choice books
- Learning spelling words
- Mental maths activities aimed at reinforcing number combinations and processes

#### Years 4 – 7:

- As for years 1 – 3
- Finishing class work not completed during the day
- Research to support class work or study assignments
- Weekly/term assignments, reinforcing content and concept being taught in class
- Reviewing work covered in class

Nb: Music practice for those involved in the school's instrumental program is in addition to class homework



As a general rule homework will not be set on weekends and holidays, however students are encouraged to manage their own time to complete open-ended tasks, projects, assignments etc. and may choose to work at these times.

## Role of the Teacher

- Send expectations home at the beginning of each year
- Set relevant and meaningful tasks that are related to classroom learning
- Marks and monitors student completion of their learning
- Provide feedback to the students and encourages and rewards students' effort
- Use discretion when determining tasks, taking into consideration the student's ability, home circumstances and commitments. There will be no homework set on holidays or weekends.
- Teachers will model tasks and provide examples (Parents may provide help if required)
- Some tasks will be open ended to cater for all types of intelligences and learning styles
- Specialist teachers may liaise with the classroom teacher to have the children complete meaningful tasks
- Discuss with parents poor or incomplete homework that may need to be completed during a time designated by the teacher

## Role of the Students

- Takes homework home and brings back to school
- Completes homework to best of ability
- Presents homework in an acceptable manner
- Keeps homework organised
- Students will be expected to complete their own homework. If there is a difficulty then they need to advise the teacher

## Role of Parents/ Guardians

- Ensures child completes homework
- Provides suitable environment and resources for homework
- Parents should notify the teacher if there is any difficulty with the tasks set
- Parents are invited to provide feedback to their child by writing a message on the homework
- Set an environment and routine at home that fits their family



## Advice for Parents:

- Children need the opportunity to play and relax after school
- Homework is best done at a quiet time set aside for homework completion
- Completing homework in front of the television is not recommended
- Take a keen interest in your child's work and ask them to explain what they are completing for homework

The Queensland State Government's research into homework found that students perform better if their parents are involved in their homework, and that students who complete homework generally outperform students who do not, on some measures of academic achievement.

**Education Review, February 2005**

## Communication

Diaries will be used in Year 6 & 7. All other students will be issued with a communication folder. This will be used to carry the homework exercise book and display folder, reader, class notes and notes from parents and teachers. Teachers will need to inform students and parents how these will be used. Parents will be informed about the Homework policy at the beginning of the year and copies will be provided.