

Mackay West State School

Homework Policy



Rationale:

Homework is an instructional technique that provides students with opportunities to deepen and practise their understanding and skills, relative to content that has been presented to them.

Homework provides an extension or consolidation of our differentiated curriculum by offering students tailored tasks that either enrich or support their learning.

Education Queensland outlines that homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning.

Homework must be:

- Purposeful and relevant to student needs
- Appropriate to the phase of learning (early, middle and senior)
- Appropriate to the capability of the student
- Developing the students' independence as a learner
- Varied, challenging and clearly related to classroom work
- Considerate of student commitment to recreational, family and cultural activities

State school policies

Every state school in Queensland is required to develop a homework policy in consultation with the school community, particularly the Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C). Principals are required to distribute the school homework policy to staff, students, and parents and guardians, particularly at the time of student enrolment. They must ensure the homework policy is effectively implemented throughout the school, and include an up-to-date school homework policy as part of their annual school reporting. In implementing their school's homework policy, teachers are required to use homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs. Teachers check homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback. They are also required to discuss with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggest strategies to assist with their homework. New guidelines for Queensland state schools about levels of student homework emphasise a need for balance between family life and consolidating classroom learning. They provide a very solid basis for schools to develop their own individual homework policy in conjunction with the school community, particularly the P&C. There is an emphasis on helping students establish a positive routine of regular, independent study, without going overboard

Aims:

To ensure that homework serves the diverse needs to students whilst ensuring that the educational needs of these students are met.

Implementation:

- The school's homework policy will be available to staff and parents
- Classroom teachers will regularly set and discuss homework tasks with students (to allow for clarifying words, questions and provide examples where needed)
- Homework will enable practice of classroom learning, prepare for new learning and /or expand on learning that has occurred
- Each set task must be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current or previous classroom curriculum
- Teachers will provide feedback on set homework, to the student, either in the form of a comment or against set criteria. Peers may on occasion provide feedback on set homework

- Each professional learning team will send home a homework outline at the beginning of the term which clearly states the expectations of homework for that term
- Reading will comprise of at least half of the nightly homework allocation for each year level
- Consideration will be given to students who are not able to complete the set homework during the school week
- Parents are expected to sign the Homework Record Sheet or Diary, on a regular basis or as requested by the teaching team
- Parents may discuss homework expectations when students are going on a personal holiday, however it is not the teacher's responsibility to prepare such homework
- Students may use digital tools such as laptops, video cameras, iPads etc. for completing homework
- Teachers setting tasks that include the use of digital tools, are expected to set time constraints
- Students who do not complete their spelling and reading homework will be completing this at school

Prep – beginning week 5 Term 1

Homework **will** consist of:

- reading of texts/activities to, with and by parents – consolidating school LIT program
- Online activity (Reading Eggs)

Homework **may** consist of:

- simple reinforcement tasks associated with classroom activities
- gathering of additional information or materials
- Sound cards consolidating school LIT program

Homework will generally not exceed 10 minutes per day and will not be set during school holiday periods. Reading should comprise most of the 10-minute homework time allocation.

Years 1 and 2 - beginning week 3 Term 1

Homework **will** consist of:

- reading of texts/activities to, with and by parents consolidating school LIT program
- spelling list used in conjunction with the school spelling program (students to write out each night)
- online activity (Reading Eggs)

Homework **may** consist of:

- simple reinforcement tasks associated with classroom activities
- gathering of additional information or materials
- unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks

Homework will generally not exceed 15 minutes per day and will not be set during school holiday periods. Reading should comprise at least 10 minutes of the homework time allocation.

Years 3 and 4 - beginning week 3 Term 1

Homework **will** consist of:

- reading of texts/activities to, with and by parents consolidating school LIT program or independent reading
- spelling list used in conjunction with the school spelling program (students to write out each night)
- online activity (Reading Eggs)

Homework **may** consist of:

- simple reinforcement tasks associated with classroom activities
- gathering of additional information or materials
- unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks

Homework will generally not exceed 20 minutes per day and will not be set during school holiday periods. Reading should comprise at least 10 minutes of the homework time allocation.

Years 5 – 6 - beginning week 3 Term 1

Homework **will** consist of:

- reading of texts/activities to, with and by parents consolidating school LIT program
- independent reading on a daily basis
- spelling list used in conjunction with the school spelling program (students to write out each night)

- online activity (Reading Eggs)

Homework **may** consist of:

- reinforcement tasks associated with classroom activities
- tasks such as continuation of classroom work, projects, assignments, and research
- unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks

Homework will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day and will not be set during school holiday periods. Reading should comprise at least 15 minutes of the homework time allocation.

Reading Eggs

Every child at Mackay West State School has a subscription to Reading Eggs. This online platform has resources to consolidate important concepts vital to a child's education. Students are encouraged to utilise this subscription at home throughout the week or over the weekend.

Role of Parents / Guardians:

- encouraging regular nightly reading
- provide a place for their child to do their homework, allow time to do it and provide appropriate resources
- encouraging a regular daily session to examine and complete homework, helping to balance the amount of time spent between homework and recreational activities
- establish a consistent schedule for completing homework
- understand their child's homework expectations
- discuss homework tasks with their child. Ask questions about their child's understanding of the task
- communicate to the teacher if homework tasks are too difficult for their child
- monitoring the time taken to complete the homework tasks and give feedback to the teacher as to whether the amount of homework can be completed in the designated time
- sign the Homework Record Sheet as requested by the teacher [nightly or weekly]
- encouraging participation in family activities such as board games
- discussing the texts that have been read by the child.