



PALLARA  
STATE SCHOOL

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## HOMEWORK POLICY

### Pallara State School

Homework at Pallara State School aims to be an educationally enhancing experience by revising and practicing common concepts of literacy and numeracy. A reasonable amount of time for homework has been set so as not to create stress within already busy family routines.

It is important to monitor implementation of the school homework policy to ensure:

- consistent and effective implementation occurs throughout the school – including a consistent approach to the amount of time students are to spend in completing homework (at particular year levels and in particular learning areas)
- the amount of homework is balanced across all learning areas to allow sufficient time for family, recreation, and community and cultural activities
- students are not disadvantaged by the lack of access to resources such as computers and the internet outside school
- homework is effective in supporting learning.

Homework is most effective when it:

- is clearly related to class work
- is appropriate to particular years of schooling
- is varied and differentiated to individual learning needs
- consolidates, revises and/or applies students' classroom learning
- develops students' independence as a learner through extension activities such as investigating, researching, writing, designing and making
- assists students to prepare for upcoming classroom learning, such as collecting relevant materials and information or completing surveys
- is monitored by the teacher.

- **Homework set in Years Prep, 1, 2 and 3 could be up to but generally not more than 2 hours per week.**
- **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.**

In the Early Years (Prep to Year 3), 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
- preparation for oral presentations
- opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.

In the Middle Phase (Year 4 to Year 6) some homework can be completed daily, weekly or over longer periods and may:

- include daily independent reading
- be coordinated across different subject areas
- include extension of class work, projects and research.

The suggestions above are a guide in determining the amount of set homework that our students might be expected to undertake.

### **Responsibilities**

Our Principal should:

- develop our school homework policy, in consultation with our school community
- distribute our school homework policy through school website and appropriate handbooks
- ensure our homework policy is effectively implemented throughout the school

Our teachers should:

- ensure our school's homework policy is implemented
- clearly communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
- liaise with students and parents to determine who has “opted out” of homework
- set homework on a regular basis
- check homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback
- use homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs
- explicitly teach strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and provide opportunities to practice these strategies through homework
- give consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework
- discuss with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.

Our students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of our school's homework policy
- 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, recreational and cultural activities.

Our parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity
- 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, 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 the homework.