

# DALBY SOUTH STATE SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY



## **Our Policy Development**

Our school's homework policy takes account of Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006, Education Policy and Procedures Register (Curriculum Provision) CRP- PR- 010: Homework in State Schools, and our school community consultation.

## **Homework Objectives**

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. When homework is set, it will take into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation, and cultural activities where appropriate.

*The objectives of homework are:*

- to develop good study habits
- to improve the link between home and school
- to reinforce work already done at school
- to develop organisational skills
- to develop responsibility for one's own learning

Mathematics and English are the key learning areas covered as part of the homework program. A gradual increase in the time spent on homework has also been adopted to create more demand and challenge as the children move through the year levels.

## **The role of our principal:**

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

### **The role of our teachers:**

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

### **Our students can take responsibility for their own learning by:**

- being aware of our school's homework policy
- discussing homework expectations with their parents or caregivers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set timeframes
- 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 and part-time employment.

Students are expected to hand in completed homework by a specified date. If students fail to do this then they may be required to complete it before school, during play time or instead of another class activity in a teacher supervised situation. Individual class teachers will set consequences for incomplete homework. Leaving homework at home is not considered a reasonable excuse as students are expected to be responsible for bringing homework to school.

### **The role of our parents and caregivers with homework:**

Through our Parents and Citizens' Association, our parents have a key role in the continuing development of our school's homework policy.

*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.

The best help parents can give is to ensure that children have a set time and place in which to do their homework and to discuss any problems.

### Homework Demands

Our school supports homework regularly being set in Years Prep-6 with support for set homework being consistent with the best practice guidelines below. However, in recognition of other demands on our students, we support individual students, with parent support making a formal application to opt out of the set homework.

No set time allocation for Prep Year however regular sight words, reading and real life numeracy activities are advisable.

Year 1	Year2 & 3	Year 4 & 5	Year 6
Sight words Counting Reading Lifeskill matrix (optional)	Sight words / spelling Tables Mathematics Reading Lifeskill matrix (optional)	Spelling Tables English (writing) Mathematics Reading Lifeskill matrix (optional)	Spelling Tables English (writing) Mathematics Reading Lifeskill matrix (optional)
Maximum time <b>15 min/day</b>	Maximum time <b>15 min/day</b>	Maximum time <b>35 min/day</b>	Maximum time <b>50 min/day</b>
60 min/wk	60 min/wk	2hr 20min/wk	3hr 20min/wk

Teachers **may** also send home any class work that was incomplete during that day or project work that is current. Students will be required to complete this work as part of their homework routines. Parents may request supplementary activities from their class teacher to complete with their children on a voluntary basis. Supplementary activities will not always be corrected by the class teacher. Parents may be directed to appropriate commercial or web based resources to access supplementary activities.

## References:

1. <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/about/homework.html>
2. <http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/school-life/homework.html>
3. Bayview State School Homework Policy [Accessed: 2 August 2012]
4. Park Lake State School Homework Policy [Accessed: 2 August 2012]