

# Homework Guidelines

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## Intent

At Coolbinia Primary School we believe Homework should:

1. Consolidate and reinforce key learning concepts taught at school NOT introduce new material,
2. Be centred around the development of basic literacy and numeracy skills which require mastery, and
3. Be completed within realistic time frames (i.e. be set without impinging on reasonable time for family, recreational, cultural and employment pursuits).

## Philosophy

Homework can support higher levels of student achievement by extending the time available for students to consolidate skills and concepts learned at school. It also extends the time available for the exploration of new ideas and new situations.

Many community members see homework as tangible evidence that the school cares about the educational progress of students. Homework can also be a means of furthering school-home relationships and can assist in keeping parents informed about the student's learning program and progress.

It is expected that homework will relate directly to the learning and teaching programs appropriate to the needs of students. Preparation of students for the time commitment of homework anticipated in years to come is not, in itself, a reasonable basis for setting homework.

In line with the Coolbinia Primary School whole child focus, the Homework Policy is reflective of the balance required in a child's life. We have a strong belief that education is a partnership with parents and homework should not be intrusive on family life. Homework is an opportunity for parents to engage and support the education of their child in a realistic and practical way.

Educational research clearly demonstrates that homework targeted to students' needs and abilities has a positive effect on student learning and retention of key facts. Homework needs also to be incremental in amount and complexity as students' progress through school. In line with this, Coolbinia's Homework Policy outlines what parents can expect their children to be doing at the different stages of Primary School.

### Principles

Homework should:

- Consolidate key learning concepts taught in class NOT introduce new material,
- Support the development of the student's independence as a learner,

- Aid the development of basic literacy and numeracy skills which require mastery further the partnership between school and home,
- Avoid dependence on unreasonable levels of parental assistance or resources that are not readily available to the student,
- Be set without impinging on reasonable time for family, recreational, cultural and employment pursuits relevant to the student's age, development and educational aspirations,
- Be centred around Literacy and Numeracy,
- Only be used to facilitate the achievement of learning outcomes,
- Form part of a developmental learning program that is responsive to individual needs, clearly relevant,
- Supported by classroom practice and, where appropriate, developed in collaboration with students,
- Be disassociated from any form of punishing students or means of securing discipline, and
- Homework should be marked or evaluated by the teacher.

## Opt-out

Parents may choose for their child not to be given homework. This should be done through a formal communication. If parents choose this option, there will be no ramifications for the student in regards to assessment or reporting.

## Year Level Expectations

Please note that these are the MAXIMUM time that homework can be assigned each school night. It does not imply that students must spend this amount of time. Homework will not be set on the weekends or in school holidays.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kindergarten/ Pre-primary</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 - 15 minutes each school night</p> <p>Homework may include: Home reader, parents reading to student, learning initial sounds, early number concepts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year 3-4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">20 – 30 minutes each school night</p> <p>Homework may include: Home reader, phonic sounds, spelling words, parent reading to student, basic number facts, completion of some school based work, family activity, Mathletics.</p>
<b>Year 1-2</b>	<b>Year 5-6</b>

<p>15 – 20 minutes each school night Year 3= 15-30 minutes each school night</p> <p>Homework may include: Home reader, phonic sounds, spelling words, parent reading to student, basic number facts and family activity, Mathletics and completion of some school based work.</p>	<p>30 – 40 minutes each school night</p> <p>Homework may include: Home reading, spelling words, basic number facts, completion of some school based work, family activity, Mathletics.</p>
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