



Rationale: Engaging in the practice of homework is highly encouraged at James Cook Primary School.

The following is an outline for students, parents/carers and school staff of the expectations of James Cook Primary School for homework and at-home learning and applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting homework.

Homework is tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students. Teachers exercise their discretion in assigning appropriate tasks drawing on knowledge, skills and concepts learnt in the classroom.

Aim: Prep to Year Three: In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the knowledge, skills and concepts that have been introduced during class time. It develops capabilities of self-discipline and responsibility, preparing them for later years.

Years Four, Five and Six: In the upper year levels, as the students transition to higher levels, the objective of homework is to strengthen traits of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative, developing time management and organisational skills, essential to daily living. It should also prepare students for secondary school study routines.

Implementation: Homework tasks will be relevant and achievable with an appropriate level of challenge.

Suggested time: **Prep, Years One and Two** – 30 minutes; **Years Three and Four** – 45 minutes; **Years Five and Six** – 60 minutes each week.

Shared expectations and responsibilities

Homework is a shared responsibility. To attain the benefits of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

James Cook Primary School will support students by:

- fostering learning and connecting families to the children's learning, via a comprehensive and balanced curriculum, including the use of diaries for regular communication between home and school.
- ensuring the homework policy is relevant to the needs of students and is communicated to parents/carers.
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year.
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary children to read to and with their children for enjoyment.

Teachers at James Cook Primary School will:

- equip students with the skills to solve real-life problems, thinking logically, creatively and imaginatively.
- set challenging and meaningful tasks linked to class learning, at students' point of need, either physically or electronically.
- consider time required to complete homework, considering home obligations and other activities.
- monitor completed homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support.
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework.

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- discussing with their parents/carers the school's homework policy and homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames by managing home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities
- following up on comments made by teachers by seeking assistance when difficulties arise.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework.
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities.

- reading and talking to them, and involving them in everyday routines and physical activity.
- Correcting their homework and communicating any concerns they have about the homework to teachers.
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, linking it to previous experiences and how the activities are an opportunity for families to integrate culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community.

Teachers at James Cook Primary School understand that students have different learning strengths and may approach learning activities and homework in varying ways. If parents are concerned that their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her we encourage them to speak to their classroom teachers.