

JAMES COOK PRIMARY SCHOOL **HOMEWORK POLICY**



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. This 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 Four: In the early years, the objective of homework should be is to practise and consolidate the knowledge, skills and concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce and develop the capabilities of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.

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

Implementation

Assigned homework tasks will be relevant, meaningful and achievable with the appropriate level of challenge.

Suggested time spent on homework activities:

Prep, Years One and Two – 40 minutes

Years Three and Four – 50 – 90minutes per week

Years Five and Six – 90 minutes – 2 hours per week

Shared expectations and responsibilities

Homework is a shared responsibility of the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. To maximise the benefits homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

James Cook Primary School will support students by:

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

Teachers at James Cook Primary School will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and other activities
- assess completed homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills

- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

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

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing with their parents/carers 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 and part-time employment.

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

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- 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, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking homework and other learning activities to culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

Support for Students and Parents/Carers

James Cook Primary School understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/carers are concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage parents/carers to speak to their child's teacher.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the three-year cycle.