Research evidence suggests that a carefully thought out and implemented homework programme produces higher levels of student achievement, and can enhance the student’s growing independence as a learner.

Homework in the primary school will differ from that in the secondary school. Primary students have a greater need for physical activity and need more rest, thus they have less time for homework. There is also more on-the-spot marking of children’s work in primary schools, reducing the need for student monitoring through homework.

Many parents and community members expect that homework will be set, many others do not believe primary aged children should do homework. However, the setting of homework and the follow up of this is often seen by many as an indication of how much a school cares for its students. The homework policy needs to be flexible enough to meet the needs of all students, and the expectations of all parents. Education Department policy allows for formal written homework to be set for years 6 and 7 only. Therefore the emphasis needs to be on positive reward for completion and effort.

**Aims**

**Homework in the primary school should:**
- be purposeful
- enhance levels of student achievement
- enhance the student’s growing independence as a learner
- assist in keeping parents informed about what students are studying at school

**Expectations…**

**of the teacher**
- sets homework each night that is relevant; of an appropriate level; and suitable for the resources available to students
- defines the homework task (assists with study skills)
- ensures the amount of homework is balanced and appropriate for students
- marks and follows up the homework
- encourages and rewards students’ effort

**of Parents**
- ensures child completes homework
- provides suitable environment and resources for homework
- is aware of the school and class policy
- communicates concerns to teacher, via written or verbal means
- follows up homework diary, if applicable

**of Students**
- takes homework home and brings back to school
- completes homework to best of ability
- presents homework in an acceptable manner
- keeps homework organised

**Other Relevant Points**

Homework can and should include home reading

**Recommended Time**

Monday to Thursday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reading, 10 mins/night; other work totalling 20 mins/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Reading, 10 mins/night; other work 30 totalling mins/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>20 mins/night total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/7</td>
<td>30 mins/night total</td>
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</tbody>
</table>