

LEARNING, TEACHING AND CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENT

Homework Policy

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Springvale Rise Primary School's policy requirements relating to homework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework (*home learning) at Springvale Rise Primary School.

RATIONALE

At Springvale Rise Primary School, we acknowledge that the time children spend with their families and their involvement in out-of-school-hours activities are important components of the development of the whole child. Activities such as cultural events / celebrations, out-of-school-hours care, the learning of a language, tutoring, religious worship or study, youth clubs, art lessons, sports practice, etc are all considered to be valuable learning activities that place additional demands on family time. Homework can support student learning; however it should never be too onerous or stressful. Children need time to be children.

The help and support of parents / guardians / kin / families is important to a student's enjoyment and completion of any designated homework. With encouragement, homework can assist in:

- consolidating new concepts learnt in class and building confidence
- developing time management and organisational skills
- connecting those new concepts to life outside of school
- keeping parents in touch with the kind of work their children are doing at school
- providing a link between parents, students and teachers.

DEFINITIONS

Homework is home learning tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

POLICY

At Springvale Rise Primary School, there is a strong emphasis on the core curriculum areas of Literacy and Numeracy. Consequently, homework comprises of predominantly encouraging home reading. Student homework may also consist of practising reading or spelling common words or mathematics practice. Teachers are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate and meaningful for their students.

SPRINGVALE RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL



We believe that homework is an additional opportunity to practise skills taught and practised during school hours. It is also an opportunity for our students to further their confidence in - and acquisition of - concepts learnt, and share their learning with their family, as opposed to a list of tasks that children are enforced to complete each week.

At Springvale Rise Primary School all homework / home learning tasks set by teachers will be:

- purposeful
- curriculum-aligned
- developmentally appropriate
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- monitored by the teacher
- provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning (where appropriate).

Homework from Foundation to Year 6 will primarily consist of promoting a love of reading. All students will be strongly encouraged to read every day. Daily reading may consist of:

- independent reading
- reading aloud to a parent, sibling or other person
- listening to a parent, sibling or other person read
- retelling a story using the pictures or by memory
- discussing a text that has been read (eg. likes, dislikes, thoughts, and opinions).

Texts can take many forms and home reading may include students reading a variety of:

- books (eg. novels, chapter books and picture story books)
- magazines, newspapers, flyers
- digital texts (eg. Reading Eggs, articles online)
- different genres (eg. narratives and stories, information reports, news reports, plays).

To support students with their engagement and love of reading at home, Springvale Rise Primary School will:

- continuously care for, resource and update Learning Centre libraries to ensure a broad range of literature is available to all students
- provide a subscription to the online reading platform, Reading Eggs and ensure that all students / families are provided with log in details
- model a love of reading and celebrate reading through classroom lessons and events such as Book Week, Book Parade, Books in School etc.

Additional activities that students may engage with at home, include:

- completing a variety of Mathematics activities on Mathletics
- practising letter-sounds and/or common words
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
 - rehearsing a presentation with parents/carers, and seeking their feedback
 - interviewing a family member as part of a research project
 - cooking dinner, reading train timetables, shopping with money, playing board games.

SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

SPRINGVALE RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders** at Springvale Rise Primary School are to:

- advise teachers, students, and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers** at Springvale Rise Primary School are to:

- prioritise home reading and essential skill acquisition for any homework tasks
- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and developmentally appropriate
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful learning opportunities – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning
- ensure the amount of homework set still supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children’s learning.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the homework their teacher has set for them
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers
- 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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to their child/s teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- linking homework to:
 - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had
 - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
 - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Springvale Rise 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.

FURHTER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Homework – Department Policy](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in June 2021 and is scheduled for review prior to the next school review or if guidelines change.