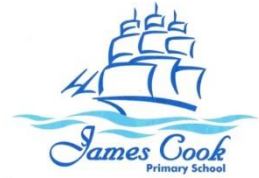


JAMES COOK PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY



Rationale:

Engaging in the practice of Homework is highly encouraged at James Cook Primary School. The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff the expectations of James Cook Primary School for homework and at-home learning. This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting homework.

James Cook Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students. Teachers are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful and draw on skills and knowledge learnt in the classroom.

Aim:

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

Years Five and Six: In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school. Homework is provided to assist students in developing time management and organisational skills, essential to daily living.

Implementation

Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials. Homework tasks will be relevant, meaningful and achievable with the appropriate level of challenge. Tasks may comprise of, but not limited to:

- Reading – daily with or to another person, independently (years five/six). All students should set aside time to read daily;
- Spelling / Sounds / Word Recognition;
- Writing for a purpose;
- Mathematics number facts / tables, algorithms (operations);
- Problem Solving;
- Project Work – presentation / research related to current unit of study against clear criteria;
- Physical Activity (ball skills, running, walking, etc)

Students may select as few or as many as desired. Reading journals will be checked weekly for all students. All completed homework tasks will be checked by the teachers.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends. For those who engage in the practices encouraged as Homework:

Prep, Years One and Two – 10-15 minutes per day (40 minutes – 1 hour per week)

Years Three and Four – 15-20 minutes per day (50 – 90minutes per week)

Years Five and Six – 20-30 minutes per day (90 minutes – 2 hours per week)

Shared expectations and responsibilities

Homework is a shared responsibility between 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.

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 the families' 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.

Evaluation:

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

Ratified: May 2018

Ratified next: May 2021