

We believe that strong partnerships between students, staff and parents assist the learning process. This policy aims to provide information about homework requirements for students at Clapham Primary School.

Parents/caregivers will be provided with more detailed information about individual class homework practices at our Acquaintance Night. Parents/caregivers are also invited into the school to discuss their child's requirements anytime throughout the year.

What is Homework?

Homework is any work or task set by a class or subject teacher that is to be completed by the student outside of normal school hours. The school practices with regard to homework are based on the Education Act:

- Regulation 164 (1) Teachers may require that homework appropriate to the age and ability of a child shall be done by a child attending a government school.
- Regulation 164 (2) Every teacher shall give sympathetic consideration to any objection from a parent regarding the amount of homework expected by a teacher from a child of that parent.

Our Beliefs

At Clapham Primary School, we believe that homework can be a positive, learning experience. However, it needs to be relevant to the students' current learning if it is to be of benefit. Students need to understand what is expected of them and the reasons why the homework tasks are set. This is the role of the class teacher. We recognise and acknowledge that the time children spend with their families and their involvement in out of hours activities are important components of the development of the whole child. Activities such as art lessons, sports practices, cultural activities, out of school hours care, the learning of a language, tutoring, church and youth clubs etc are all considered to be valuable learning activities that place additional demands on family time.

Homework can assist in:

- the development of time management and organisational skills
- in consolidating new concepts learnt
- keeping parents in touch with the kind of work their children are doing at school
- provide a link between parents, students and teachers.

Homework may consist of:

- reading
- completing tasks that were not completed in class time
- 'practise' tasks which will give students a chance to consolidate newly learned concepts
- set tasks or 'longer-term' contracts which will have negotiated time frames
- a home or community based activity.

Homework can support student learning, however it should never be too onerous or stressful. It can provide an opportunity for students to take responsibility for their own learning and can help to establish routines and sound study habits.

How much homework and how often?

Students of all year levels are encouraged to read every night.

Junior Primary (Reception to Year 2)

Students should aim to carry out tasks like reading to a family member, finding things at home, preparing a morning talk, playing a maths game, e-learning activities or reading/practicing a word list. Parents are encouraged to read to their children.

Primary (Year 3 to Year 7)

The following are **guidelines** as to how much and how often homework will be set. It is important to realise that students may take varying times to complete tasks, therefore the times below are an overall guide. Teachers are encouraged to set homework over a week to develop time management skills as well as appreciating that students are often involved in extracurricular activities. Homework should not be set on a Friday to be completed by Monday.

Year Level	Time	Tasks
Year 3	Up to 20 minutes per week may be set aside for formal tasks.	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects and assignments• Homework Grid• Researching (gathering information)• Graphing• Logic Maths• Maths Games• Literacy Games• Presentation (oral)• Making a model• Finding resources• Reading aloud• Completing set class tasks• Reinforcing skills taught in class• Extending knowledge, skills and concepts• Practising sight words Students should read every night.
Year 4	Up to 40 minutes per week may be set aside for formal tasks.	
Year 5	Up to 60 minutes per week may be set aside for formal tasks.	
Year 6 and Year 7	Up to 90 minutes per week may be set aside for formal tasks.	

How parents of primary / upper primary students can help their child in preparation for high school

The help and support of parents is important to a student's enjoyment and completion of homework. Parents can help by:

- encouraging students to take homework seriously
- setting the scene at home and acknowledging that a set time is dedicated to homework
- providing a 'study' place that is quiet, pleasant and comfortable, with good lighting and ventilation
- helping your child to acquire any resources they may need for any independent research, by taking them to visit local libraries, etc
- knowing your child's deadlines so you can encourage them to meet these
- providing your child's teacher with prompt feedback if your child is experiencing any difficulties.

Roles and Responsibilities of students, teachers and parents:

Teachers:

- set appropriate homework for students, ensuring it is relevant and linked to the classroom programme
- communicate the expectations of the task so students have a clear understanding by providing additional written requirements where necessary
- ensure homework is appropriate to individual student abilities
- ensure that the amount of homework is based on realistic expectations of the time it will take to complete
- monitor that homework is completed appropriately and on time
- monitor and provide prompt feedback to the student
- report on homework where appropriate
- take into account access to and availability of resources which can represent a significant barrier to complete homework
- contact parents as soon as possible when homework is not being completed.

Students:

- ensure they know what homework is required of them each evening and complete their tasks
- let their teacher know if they don't understand the set task
- record their homework task in their diary
- meet the timeline for the task
- negotiate with their teacher any adjustments to set deadlines
- support students to build self-management skills

Parents:

- encourage students to complete homework requirements
- identify a suitable workspace, appropriate resources, encouragement and guidance
- communicate any homework issues to the teacher
- encourage students to be increasingly independent as they progress through school

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