

Homework Policy

At Reynella Primary School, we do not set homework for homework's sake. We acknowledge that children need time after school for extra-curricular activities, for relaxation and for family time.

However, we do believe that all students benefit from reading at home on their own and/or with family members on a daily basis. Therefore daily reading at home is considered to be homework for all R-7 students. Parents are asked to support this practice. There is a significant body of current research that shows a strong positive relationship between parental involvement and higher levels of school achievement, particularly in reading.

Homework is necessary at times for students who have not completed set work during school hours. This is set at the discretion of the teacher.

Occasionally class teachers may choose to set an overnight task that is directly related to an aspect of the day's learning. We understand that many of our students have after school commitments so if your child is unable to complete an overnight task, parents are asked to write a note in the school diary. Some teachers may also set a task for the week to be time-managed by the student.

Physical activity is very important for the children. We encourage children to participate in physical activity – structured or recreational – regularly each week.

We also encourage student to undertake responsible tasks that assist the family and/or the community, such as household chores and litter collection. *“Children need time to learn to be part of a family and a community. Children must learn their responsibilities in helping to maintain a household and participate in community life.”* (Donahoo, 2007)

Students who enjoy having homework could negotiate a task with parents and/or the class teacher. For example they could research a topic that interests them. There are also many Internet sites with educational games and challenges.

In summary, the expectations are:

- Daily reading for all students.
- Finishing off work that should have been completed at the discretion of the class teacher.
- Possibly a weekly task, at the discretion of the class teacher.
- Regular practice for students learning a musical instrument.

In addition we encourage:

- Physical exercise at least once a week for all students to create healthy life habits.
- Home chores and/or community responsibilities, to be determined by each family.

The best homework is that which helps children become confident learners, happier human beings, and well-rounded individuals.

Reference: Donahoo, D 2007, *Idolising Children*, University of New South Wales Press