



INTRODUCTION

At Diggers Rest Primary School, we recognise the role homework has in the connection between home and school. Homework, when positive and achievable, can impact favourably on the learning of students and can initiate curiosity and interest. Homework is one component of a holistic learning program aimed at the continuous improvement of all students.

The relationship between home and school is of pivotal importance at Diggers Rest Primary School. The homework policy aims to recognise the importance of this relationship whilst incorporating research about the types of homework proven to be of most effect and the least socially divisive.

AIMS

The aim of homework is to:

- Provide an avenue for positive reinforcement around learning in the home environment.
- Encourage parents to participate in their child's education.
- Encourage children to become responsible for their own learning.
- Consolidate skills that are being developed within each classroom program.
- Reinforce key concepts requiring ongoing practice.
- Enable children to develop effective study habits and time management skills.

PRINCIPLES

Homework will be assigned according to the following principles:

- A suggested guide for parents, regarding time spent on homework is that it should not exceed the following times per school day (and should not include weekends).

Prep - Year 1	15 minutes
Year 2 – 4	30 minutes
Years 5 - 6	45 minutes
- Homework tasks will be purposeful and relevant. Tasks should not require re-teaching of skills.
- Homework will be related to classroom activities.
 - Years Prep – 2 will focus on daily reading including reading to, reading with and reading by parents/caregivers or older siblings. Practise with commonly used words will be offered if appropriate.
 - Years 3-6 will focus on independent reading, times table practice and spelling words.
 - Years 5-6 will also include an extension of class work through a task incorporating key learning areas.
 - Challenge homework tasks can be offered but are not mandatory.
 - Practise of concepts and set tasks in Reading Eggs and Mathletics programs.
- Homework tasks will take into account the individual student's ability and although the same task may be given to all students within the same class, class teachers may have different expectations for different students.

- Homework will be consistent across the school and will demonstrate a progression in learning expectations.
- Years 5 and 6 students will be encouraged to use homework journals.
- Teachers will give students feedback in relation to homework tasks.
- Homework expectations need to be part of a regular routine that is clearly communicated to families through parent meetings/newsletters.
- Where homework is incomplete or irregular a meeting between parents and the classroom teacher should be held with a view to a mutually agreeable solution.

EXPECTATIONS

Parents and Caregivers can help their children by:

- Encouraging and supporting their child's efforts and successes.
- Encouraging their child to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework tasks.
- Discussing student homework tasks with their child.
- Attending school events, displays or productions in which their children are involved.
- Contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns their children are having with homework.
- Encouraging children to discuss misconceptions with their classroom teacher.
- Giving feedback to teachers or students, related to homework tasks.
- Understanding the purpose of homework and its relationship to student learning and achievement.

Teachers can help their students by:

- Encouraging and supporting student efforts and successes.
- Differentiating homework expectations according to student need.
- Advising parents of homework expectations and routines at the beginning of the school year.
- Contacting parents when homework irregularity becomes a concern.
- Setting meaningful and relevant homework tasks that are appropriate to student learning need and reflective of research around homework effectiveness.
- Giving students enough time to complete homework tasks, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities.
- Assisting students to develop effective organisational and time management skills needed to promote responsibility for their own learning.
- Ensuring effective use of homework diaries in Years 5 and 6.