

PROSERPINE STATE SCHOOL

Learning Together Making A Difference

Proserpine State School Homework Policy

Why do my children have to do homework?

The Queensland Government has released a Homework in State Schools Policy that sets out guidelines for homework, including the amount of time students should spend on homework each week.

Teachers also give homework because it can help children

- review and practise what they've learned;
- learn to use resources, such as the internet, libraries and reference materials; and
- explore subjects more fully than time permits in the classroom.

Homework can also help children develop good habits and attitudes.

It can teach children to work independently; encourage self-discipline and responsibility (assignments provide some youngsters with their first chance to manage time and meet deadlines); and encourage a love of learning.

Homework can also bring parents and educators closer together. Parents who supervise homework and work with their children on assignments learn about their children's education and about the school.

At our school, it is an expectation that all classes from Years 1 to 7 have daily/weekly homework. However, circumstances do arise whereby students complete set work in class time. Eg fast finishers, prearranged by parents/teacher, having tutoring sessions in lieu.

We acknowledge that many of our students have extra-curricular activities after school and this means that weekly homework is sometimes done on the days that are least busy. This is negotiated on an individual basis between a parent/student and the classroom teacher.

All students who are learning a musical instrument must practice and complete any homework set by his/ her teacher also. This is very clearly explained in the Instrumental Programme Beginners Package.

We endorse the practice of homework to

- encourage our students to be life-long learners
- acknowledge that a lot of learning happens off-campus
- inform parents/carers about the curriculum
- inform teachers when a student is challenged or not challenged enough

We encourage parents/ carers and students to establish a routine that works for you and your family.

Some things you could do to ensure homework is completed with a minimum of fuss are

- keep a supply of pencils, an eraser, ruler and a dictionary in the one place or a box
- have a certain place for homework – natural lighting, no distractions
- be encouraging
- contact the teacher if there is a problem that cannot be solved at home



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- mark due dates for projects or assessment tasks in the calendar – talk with your child about what they have to know and do to complete these tasks

What does homework look like in the Early Years?

In Years 1 to 3, homework is given out and marked daily unless alternate arrangements are made between a parent/ student and the teacher. It is a copied sheet, one per week per student. Each student will have :

- A reading book to 'read' remembering that all good readers make meaning from a text, can read pictures and make pictures in their heads.
- Word recognition or spelling
- Maths revision

No student is expected to do more than 10 minutes homework per day, not including Reading, in the Early Years. It should be easy for students to complete. If it is not, communication from the parents should commence and teachers should be aware and make alterations.

What does homework look like in the Middle Years?

In Years 4 to 7, homework is given out and marked daily or weekly, depending on the classroom environment. Alternate arrangements can be negotiated between the parent/ student and the teacher. However, across a Year Level, all student cohorts must have the same expectations.

Homework will :

- Be revision of work done in class
- Involve English and Reading as well as Maths
- Possibly incorporate :
 - Thinking Strategies,
 - other Key Learning Areas, and
 - Acknowledgement of extra tuition eg sports training, dance practice, academic tutoring, instrumental practice
- No longer than 15-20 minutes per day for students in Years 4 and 5
- No longer than 20-30 minutes per day for students in Years 6 and 7. These students may also have project work over a period of days or weeks. If this is the case, a letter or Criteria Sheet will inform parents/ carers of the expectations in this instance.

If an individual student experiences difficulty with homework, parents/ carers are encouraged to immediately contact the child's teacher and have discussions about alternatives or support.

