

## Latham Primary School Homework Policy 2010

Homework is set for four main reasons:

- To practise and consolidate skills learned in class.
- To gather information from family and community members
- To extend skills learned in class
- To prepare students for the demands of homework in high school

In general, homework in the junior school (years K-3) should not require more than 15-minutes three times a week. This is on top of daily reading, which should take about 15 minutes a night. Children should be encouraged to read for pleasure daily.

In the senior school, homework should require up to 30 minutes, 3 times a week. Daily reading for pleasure or interest of around 30 minutes is recommended for students in the senior school. (Years 4-6). Melba Copeland Secondary school currently suggests 45 minutes to one hour of homework per night is reasonable for year 7 students.

While homework will include various activities, it is not possible to tailor homework to each individual child's specific needs.

Homework is given to students as a consolidation activity, rather than extension. Homework should not require students to attempt new skills which have not been covered in class.

Homework should be an accurate reflection of the students' learning, with parental guidance, rather than parental input.

Homework can take many forms including:

- Matrices ( a choice of many activities to be completed over several weeks or a term)
- Research projects- digital, pen and paper etc
- Reading and writing tasks
- Speaking tasks
- Maths and numeracy activities
- Questionnaires and surveys

In years K-3, there are no consequences for not completing homework. In years 4-6, children may be asked to give up time from play or class activities to complete set tasks.

Set homework will be reviewed by teachers and returned to students

**Parents may request that their children are exempt from homework by sending a note to their child's class teacher.**

Homework generates debate and discussion around its effectiveness. Some pros and cons are detailed in the accompanying table.

Homework- the Pros*	Homework the Cons*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ May contribute to progress in school- improved grades, better retention of factual knowledge, increased understanding, better critical thinking/problem solving</li> <li>❖ May equip children for the rigours of a competitive world</li> <li>❖ May help with independent study</li> <li>❖ May increase time management, self discipline and personal responsibility</li> <li>❖ May link families and schools with increased communication</li> <li>❖ May inform parents of the curriculum</li> <li>❖ May promote increased parent involvement in child's life</li> <li>❖ May help teachers monitor students' progress</li> <li>❖ May improve attitude to learning</li> </ul> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">* adapted from ACSSO's preliminary research and discussion paper March 2007. Homework the Upsides and Downsides-Towards an effective policy and practice in Australian schools. Available at: <a href="http://www.acsso.org.au/homework.pdf">www.acsso.org.au/homework.pdf</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ May reduce family time</li> <li>❖ May contribute to family conflict</li> <li>❖ May mean less time for important extra curricular activities-eg, leisure time and community activities</li> <li>❖ May be ineffective and counter productive if not appropriately and consistently designed, structured and assessed for different skill levels, subjects, grades etc</li> <li>❖ May be a source of anxiety for children and parents</li> <li>❖ May cause physical and emotional fatigue/stress</li> <li>❖ May cause loss of interest in academic material/ learning</li> <li>❖ May cause confusion without instruction</li> <li>❖ May mean lack of parent involvement</li> <li>❖ May cause parents to be unsure of how to help.</li> </ul>