

Title: Latham Primary School Homework Policy 2017-2020
Published: May 2017
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Purpose

This policy outlines Latham Primary School's approach to homework.

1. POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 In developing this policy, the School Board surveyed parents, and the school surveyed the staff and students. Responses revealed a very diverse range of views across the community.
- 1.2 The Board also reviewed relevant literature on potential benefits, limitations and recommendations for home learning in primary school. In summary, there is limited and inconclusive evidence that home learning contributes directly to improved academic achievement for primary aged students, and general consensus that primary school students benefit from activities appropriate for home such as reading and family time.
- 1.3 This research and the views of all members of the school community, contributed to the development of the rationale, principles and procedures for homework outlined below.

2. RATIONALE

- 2.1 At Latham Primary School we believe that school work should be done at school and that students should access other opportunities at home to develop different skills, have new experiences and to enjoy a balanced life. We do recognize that all children learn at different rates and some children may require additional support for their learning. Special activities to support learning may be provided based on a conversation between the parent and teacher.

Reading is a lifelong skill that must be practised on a daily basis. The importance of reading is highlighted on the following website <http://www.letsread.com.au/About/Why-Is-Reading-Important> . It states that 46% of Australians, over 15 years old, do not have the necessary literacy skills to meet the demands of work and life. It also states the importance of learning these skills from early in life.

There are occasional times throughout the year that some activities may require support from home. These are listed in section 2.2 below.

- 2.2 Possible additional activities

Collaboration
Positivity

Respect

Motivation

Resilience

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- ✓ Oral presentations / News topics / Speeches such as Rostrum in Years 3-6
- ✓ Research for projects
- ✓ Surveys
- ✓ Questionnaires

3. PRINCIPLES

3.1 Through consultation and review of research, Latham Primary School aims to support students by:

- Providing individualised activities on a needs basis
- connecting home and school
- fostering positive attitudes towards reading
- acknowledging the learning which takes place within the home environment.

3.2 CURRENT RESEARCH

According to the 'Victorian Government's Inquiry into Homework' and 'Reforming homework – Practices, learning and policy' by Mike Horsley and Richard Walker, homework in primary school has very little to no impact on a students' learning in primary school. This finding is also supported by the Visible Learning meta study conducted by John Hattie in 2009. His study found that homework had a zero effect size on learning. Therefore Latham Primary School has taken the step to make homework on a needs basis rather than a one size fits all approach.

4. PROCEDURES

Latham Primary School is committed to supporting all students in their learning journey. We acknowledge that some parents may want their children to do 'formal' homework activities and we will endeavour to support them to do so.

4.1 Teacher's Role

- At the beginning of the school year or as needed the teachers will compile a list of activities / opportunities appropriate to the year level that will provide guidance for parents wishing to do other activities with their children. This could include a list of websites the parent or student could access, activities the student could do to enhance their understanding of a particular concept and so on.

4.2 Parent's Role

- provide an environment for the child that encourages reading and experiencing new things
- to contact their child's teacher if they have concerns
- support their child to complete additional activities to the best of their ability by the given deadline

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- 4.3 Student's Role
- read regularly
 - complete any additional tasks to the best of their ability by the given deadline
 - ask for assistance from teachers and family where necessary
- 4.4 School's Role
- maintain communication between home and school
 - provide resources that help parents support their child at home

5. READING REFERENCES

Reading is a crucial aspect of all children's learning. Reading at home is not limited to the reading of levelled texts provided by school (home readers). Reading at home should be a fun experience. Books are not the only source of reading material. Your child can also read magazines, comics, recipes, game instructions, emails from family members and websites to name a few. Borrowing reading materials from the school library or from your local library is a great way of experiencing the large variety of reading opportunities that exist. Reading at home could include children;

- ⇒ [reading to someone](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkCqhzkp9s0) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkCqhzkp9s0)
- ⇒ being read to by someone
- ⇒ [reading with someone](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4Kxhu1mLCw) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4Kxhu1mLCw).

Below are four websites to support parents with reading at home:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/reading.php>

<http://www.rif.org/books-activities/tips-resources/reading-with-your-child/>

<http://memfox.com/for-parents/for-parents-ten-read-aloud-commandments/>

http://petaa.edu.au/imis_prod/w/Teaching_Resources/w/Teaching_Resources/Parents_guide.aspx

6. POLICY OWNER

Latham Primary School



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