

Mount Cotton State School

Parents' Handbook

HOMEWORK POLICY

Each state school has a homework policy, developed in consultation with the school community. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

HOMEWORK POLICY (continued)

Homework is a part of normal school life and should have positive outcomes for all concerned – students, teachers and family. Homework is defined as “*consolidation of concepts already taught in class*”. A consistent framework is important to help ensure this:

Positive Outcomes

- It gives students the chance to consolidate what they have learnt in school
- It increases children’s confidence and enjoyment in learning
- It gives parents/caregivers and teachers the opportunity to encourage, express approval and in general, relate positively with students
- It develops life-long habits of learning and planning
- It provides for family conversation and possible outings to places of social, historic or natural interest
- As homework is completed at home, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure the homework is completed by the child and returned to school on or before the day it is due. From time to time, it is understood that, for whatever reason, a child may forget to bring their homework by the due date. However, when a particular child regularly fails to produce homework by the due date, the teacher is not required to spend time chasing this up. If the teacher chooses to pursue the completion of homework by a child during the school day, that is the teacher’s prerogative to do so.
- Homework could be set at other times e.g. weekends but this will be kept to a minimum and only if parents are given reasonable prior notice
- At the beginning of each term homework will be given as soon as the class are settled and class routines have been established
- Less structured but valuable homework ideas:
 - Lots and lots of family conversation – story telling, jokes, discussions
 - Shared bed-time stories with mum or dad reading to the children
 - Private reading in bed before lights out
 - Family games, activities and hobbies
 - Regular visits to the local library
 - Outings of all kinds to places of social, historic or natural interest
 - Imaginative play that comes naturally to children of all ages

EARLY PHASE OF LEARNING (Prep to 3)

The main focus at home will be to develop literacy, numeracy and problem solving skills.

The homework may include:

- Daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or other family members
- Linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- Promotion of conversations about what is happening at school
- Preparation for oral presentations
- Opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.

The role of parents and caregivers with homework

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

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- Encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning. Parents will be provided with strategies for assisting students with personal organisation.
- Reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity.
- Helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources. The homework task will include tips for parents on assisting students with homework.

HOMEWORK POLICY (continued)

- Encouraging them to read and take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events.
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities.
- Contacting the class teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.