

Dapto Public School

Homework Policy

(Revised 2014)

Dapto Public School has at its core the principle of 'students achieving to their potential'. Homework is a component of the curriculum offered to support student development. Homework is designed to support and revise learning and should be considered an extension to the classroom curriculum.

Homework reinforces positive attitudes towards work as well as revising learning content. Homework is not compulsory, however it is an expectation that the students at Dapto complete homework and return it as required or specified by the class teacher. Attitudes developed now will influence attitudes towards study at high school and beyond.

Approximate Homework Duration

Stage	Minutes per day
Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)	10
1 (Years 1 & 2)	15 – 20
2 (Year 3 & 4)	20 – 30
3 (Years 5 & 6)	30 – 40

Frequency of Homework

Homework will be set weekly. Depending on the teacher, tasks may need to be returned daily or weekly. It is asked, if weekly homework is set, that parents ensure that children work on it over a number of days rather than in one long session as this promotes time management by each child. This is a skill that they will need at high school when homework volume will significantly increase.

Project Work

Teachers may set projects for students to research and return to school. It is encouraged that children complete their own work as this will benefit their own learning. Parents are encouraged to provide some support, however it is best when students learn from their own learning. Each year, the school will also set a project for all students 3-6 for Public Speaking. This will be used as a selection process for the Dapto Community of Schools Public Speaking competition. It will occur in late Term 1 to Early Term 2.

Premier's Reading Challenge (Additional Homework – Optional Year 1 - 6)

Additional homework may be undertaken by students. The Premier's Reading Challenge is a state wide activity for Public School students. The Department of Education has established recommended reading material which can be accessed through the school library or the Council Library at Dapto Ribbonwood centre. Students completing the challenge will be rewarded a certificate of completion signed by the state Premier. The list of books can be viewed on www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge. The school will register students taking part in this activity. In Term 1 each year details will be advertised through the school's website and the newsletter.

Additional Research – Optional Years 1-6

Your child may be strongly motivated by the topics covered in class. In such a case students may wish to further research the topic. If this is the case it is strongly recommended that they do so on computer format (usually in power point) so as they can use graphics and words to present findings.

Reading and Times Tables

If at any time you find spare time, every moment spent reading to and reading with your child will support them for the future. Students in year 3 and above, require practice of simple mathematical facts. They need to be able to recall these facts quickly and accurately. 5 minutes practice per day will benefit them enormously.

Homework Content

The below mentioned activities are a guide and may change from week to week depending on weekly requirements, the school calendar or the content of lessons for that week.

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

- ◆ Phonics covering sounds of the week – n.b. parents will be provided training in phonics Term 1 each year.
- ◆ A home reader to be read each night based at the child's level. It may be repeated to improve fluency and accuracy.

Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

- ◆ A home reader to be read each night based at the child's level. It may be repeated to improve fluency and accuracy.
- ◆ Spelling
- ◆ Set tasks in English to complement classroom program
- ◆ Set tasks in Mathematics to complement classroom program

Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

- ◆ A home reader to be read each night based at the child's level or a library book.
- ◆ Times tables practice
- ◆ Spelling
- ◆ Set tasks in English to complement classroom program
- ◆ Set tasks in Mathematics to complement classroom program

Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6)

- ◆ A library book chosen by the child for interest.
- ◆ Times tables practice
- ◆ Spelling
- ◆ Set tasks in English to complement classroom program
- ◆ Set tasks in Mathematics to complement classroom program

How Much Should Parents Help or Push Their Child?

The setting of homework by the school is to support student development and is aimed at revising skills. The homework has not been set to cause argument between parents and their child. If you feel that the homework is too hard or beyond their capacity, please contact your child's teacher and discuss the situation. Also if you feel that your child requires further work, contact your child's teacher who can assist you in gaining access to programs which will further challenge your child.

Homework works best when parents support the school in ensuring that the homework is complete. However, homework has not been set for the parent and it is requested that you support your child and not complete tasks for them.

In this policy, recommended times have been listed against each age group. Use this as a guide and ensure that you hold a 'life balance'. Remember that every child also needs time to play and relax each day so as to allow them to develop holistically. *'Childhood is precious and children need time to be children as well'*.