



HOMEWORK POLICY

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Background

Over many years, educators have debated the benefits of homework for primary aged students, with studies reaching different and sometimes contradictory conclusions on its effectiveness. Added academic practice and the development of good study habits are considered positives, while extra pressure on students and families and time taken from other beneficial activities are seen as negatives to homework.

Rationale

The Lockridge Primary School Homework Policy seeks to provide a balanced application to homework and provides clear guidelines for how students should engage in learning out of school hours to benefit their development. It outlines the quantity and content of home learning, as well as appropriate durations as students move through their primary years.

Our Beliefs

We believe that 'homework for homework sake' is not beneficial for students, nor should it be a substitute for classroom instruction. Any learning undertaken in the home should seek to strengthen skills already covered in the classroom, but must be managed so as to ensure a balance between learning, play, rest and exercise.

Where home learning is beneficial however, and our policy is supported by internationally recognised research, is where it centres around:

- strengthening the partnership between home and school;
- helping to keep parents/carers informed about their child's learning program and progress;
- assisting the development of positive study habits;
- building student resilience and goal-setting capabilities; and
- incorporating tasks that support children acquiring important life skills.

Research also supports our beliefs that homework must not:

- overly impact on time for family, recreational and cultural pursuits;
- be associated with any form of punishment or discipline;
- require unreasonable levels of parental intervention; and
- cause undue stress to the student or their parent/carer.

It is essential that after a busy school day, most importantly, children have an opportunity to connect with their family, play and engage in activities that benefit their general wellbeing.

Life skills

Life skills are a set of abilities and competencies that help individuals to learn and become positive social citizens. They generally fall into 3 domains (Cognitive, Social, Emotional) and are transferable in all contexts. We believe that life skills are just as important as academic skills, therefore we advocate for students to engage in activities at home that strengthen life skills.

Life skills

Problem-solving
Communication
Resilience
Empathy
Negotiation
Self-management
Critical thinking
Decision-making
Creative thinking
Relationship building
Participation

Source: UNESCO & UNICEF

Examples of activities in the home

Cooking
Puzzles and games
Helping with shopping
Walking and feeding pets
Helping younger siblings
Gardening
Making school lunches
Organising recycling
Speaking with relatives
Discussing current affairs
Basic chores (washing dishes, making beds, laundry etc...)

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Year	Time (max.) & Regularity	Consisting of			
Kindy	-	<i>There is no formal homework set for Kindy students; however, we strongly encourage parents/carers to read to or with their children daily. Some Kindy activities such as news telling, or a simple drawing or creative task may require support from parents/carers and at times, students may be asked to bring an item from home for a specific activity.</i>			
PP	10 minutes 4 days per week	Reading activities	Phonics and high frequency words	Basic counting tasks	Life Skills
Year 1	10 minutes 4 days per week	Reading activities	Phonics and high frequency words	Basic counting tasks	Life Skills
Year 2	15 minutes 4 days per week	Reading activities	Phonics and high frequency words	Basic counting tasks & times tables	Life Skills
Year 3	15 minutes 4 days per week	Reading activities	Times tables practise		Life Skills
Year 4	20 minutes 4 days per week	Reading activities	Times tables practise		Life Skills
Year 5	25 minutes 4 days per week	Reading activities	Times tables practise		Life Skills
Year 6	30 minutes 4 days per week	Reading activities	Times tables practise	Life Skills	Tasks to benefit transition to Secondary school

Monitoring and marking

Staff will provide monitoring and guidance to assist students to engage in Homework, however, it will not be assessed and children will not receive consequences for non-completion. Students who do complete activities however will be rewarded with increased skills and where appropriate, recognition and acknowledgement.

How Parents/Carers can help

The following will assist parents/carers to provide an environment conducive to completing homework:

- Provide your child with a quiet place by switching off the TV and removing electronic devices;
- Ensure siblings respect those engaged in homework or are available to be read to;
- Show interest in your child's learning and ask questions, but refrain from doing it for them;
- Establish a daily routine and ensure that your child has the tools necessary to complete the homework

Objections to Homework

Where a parent/carer objects to their child engaging in homework, they are to inform their child's teacher. This request will then be documented on the student file. We do however encourage students and families to engage in the life skills activities listed above.

Homework and the provision of work for children on holidays during the term

As outlined in our Student Attendance and Engagement Policy, we do not provide work for students whose families choose to take holidays during the term. Family holidays are wonderful learning experience in their own right, with different social, cultural and geographical contexts having learning benefits for children of all ages.

This policy has been developed by the Lockridge PS staff in conjunction with the Leadership Team, Curriculum Improvement Team and School Council. It will be reviewed in 2023.