

**Rationale:**

Home learning activities are school related activities pursued at home. Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning and fostering good lifelong learning and study habits. It provides an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

**GUIDELINES:**

Homework is an opportunity to develop a partnership with the school by establishing regular homework patterns from early primary school.

Homework is an opportunity for parents to actively participate as partners with their children in the education process. However it is important that children take responsibility for completing their own work. By completing homework regularly, students are assisted to develop organisational and time management skills. Homework also promotes self discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and a personal responsibility for learning.

Parents and students are advised of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year. It is expected that students complete the homework requirements as indicated by their classroom teacher. Failure to complete homework on a regular basis will be followed up with parents.

All students use diaries which provide a regular communication between parents and the school as well as preparing students for the demands of post primary education. Parents are encouraged to use the diary to communicate on a daily basis with school and their child's teacher.

**Homework may include:**

- reading on a regular basis
- reinforcing acquired skills and knowledge, e.g. spelling words
- working on projects
- gathering information or materials to extend their class work
- completing unfinished work
- investigating, exploring and making observations

**Homework should be:**

- part of student's after school routine
- meaningful and relevant
- related to work being studied in the classroom
- returned to school by the specified date
- corrected with follow-up

**Prep to Year 2 Homework will:**

- promote the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials
- mainly consist of daily reading to, with and by parents/caregivers etc.
- take up to approximately 30 minutes each school night depending on the student's year level

**Years 3 – 6 Homework:**

- should include daily independent reading
- may include extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research
- take from 30-60 minutes each night depending on the student's year level and time management skills

**Teachers help their students by:**

- setting regular homework to help students establish a home study routine
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work that are appropriate to the student's learning needs
- giving students enough time to complete homework, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assessing homework and providing practical feedback and support
- helping students develop the organisational and time management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning
- ensuring that students have good information skills
- ensuring parents and caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy
- developing strategies to support parents to become active partners in homework

**Parents and caregivers can help their children by:**

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation
- observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing
- attending school events, displays or productions in which their children are involved
- encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework
- setting an example by reading themselves
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with homework
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities
- checking whether homework for upper primary has been set and ensuring they keep a homework diary
- reading texts set by teachers. Discussing their child's response to the texts and asking to see work they complete in relation to these texts
- discussing homework in their first language, where English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to their previous experiences

**Useful links for parents (educational websites)**

- Mathletics: <http://www.mathletics.com.au/>
- Reading Eggs: <http://readingeggs.com.au/>

(All Reservoir Views students have a paid subscription which can be used at home. Please contact your child's teacher if they have forgotten their log-in)

- Premiers Reading Challenge
- [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au) – Select the tabs "Student"/"Help with Homework"/Primary Students or Early Childhood.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in May 2014