

HILDER ROAD STATE SCHOOL



HOMWORK POLICY

It is an expectation of the Hilder Road State School Community – P&C, the Principal & Staff – that all students abide by the Homework Policy. A parent / caregiver application to enrol at Hilder Road State School is taken as acceptance of this policy. This policy acknowledges previously ratified school policies including Spelling, Reading and Writing.

Rationale

Our School Community believes that homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. 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 that enhances student learning:

- Is purposeful and relevant to student needs;
- Is appropriate to the phase of learning (early, middle and senior);
- Is appropriate to the capability of the student and is inclusive of all participants;
- Develops the student's independence as a learner;
- Is varied, challenging and clearly related to and is in context with class work;
- Allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities;
- Is not stressful;
- Provides a link between school and home with children's learning.

Purpose

Homework can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- Revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practising for mastery);
- Applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue);
- Pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making);
- Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information).

Homework Grid

The 'Homework Grid' used at Hilder Road State School encourages family interactions and a relaxed time for children to pursue their own learning. We recognise the on-going changes and time constraints facing families and use the homework grid to help manage these issues. The types of activities included are devised to develop life skills and 'value add' to class academic work.

Responsibilities

Teachers

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- Ensuring the HRSS Homework Policy is implemented;
- Setting homework on a regular basis;
- Clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework;
- Checking homework regularly and providing timely and useful feedback;
- Using homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs;
- Explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practise these strategies through homework;
- Giving consideration to other academic and personal development activities that students could be engaged in when setting homework;
- Discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.

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Responsibilities

Students

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- Being aware of the HRSS Homework Policy;
- Discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations;
- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames;
- Following up on comments made by teachers;
- Seeking assistance when difficulties arise;
- Organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

Responsibilities

Parents and Caregivers

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- 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;
- Encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning;
- Encouraging them to read and to take 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 relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to homework.

Practical Hints for Parents

- Provide an attractive and quiet work area where there is a desk and adequate lighting;
- Establish a routine and allow time for relaxation;
- Encourage children to work reasonably quickly and efficiently;
- Do not let children work beyond the maximum time limits;
- When helping, keep your explanations simple and practical;
- If possible express approval and satisfaction;
- If a task cannot be satisfactorily completed in the set time, stop your child working, sign the homework book and talk to your child's teacher/s;
- Monitor projects so that they are not left until the due date.

HRSS Homework Expectations (Weekly)

Year	Maximum Total Hours Per Week
Year 1	1 hour
Year 2	1 hour
Year 3	1 hour
Year 4	2-3 hours
Year 5	2-3 hours
Year 6	3-4hours
Year 7	3-4 hours

(Maximum homework hours over a week recommended by the QLD Government in *Homework in State Schools* policy.)

Class Teacher expectations will be clearly articulated at the initial parent / teacher evening at the beginning of the year.

Non-Compliance

Students and families are encouraged to complete the homework grid by each due date. Parents/caregivers will be informed if students do not complete homework. Parents/ caregivers are requested to notify their child's teacher of circumstances which may affect the completion of homework tasks. The Education (Provisions Act) 2007 allows the principal of, or a teacher at, the school to detain the student as punishment for the wilful neglect to prepare homework.

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Parents' & Citizens Association Endorsement

The P&C of Hilder Road State School resolves that it supports the Homework Policy for Hilder Road State School because it believes regular homework promotes the development of organisational habits and lifelong learning skills. In particular, the P&C of Hilder Road State School supports the involvement of parents in the development of good homework organisation habits while developing knowledge of a student's curriculum program.

Notes for Teachers

Suggested Grid Format

Literacy Activity	Literacy Activity	Mathematics Activity
Social Skill	Habits of Mind	Problem Solving
Household Activity	Physical Activity	Relaxation

Literacy Activities COULD include:

- Reading for pleasure, reading assigned by the teacher, reading to parents/ siblings
- Spelling
- Reading the newspaper, poetry, DIY instructions etc.
- Writing a journal, responses, questions
- Preparing an oral presentation
- Listening to a 'song of social comment'

Mathematics COULD include:

- Practising tables
- Researching famous mathematicians
- Critiquing a mathematics game
- Writing problems
- Conducting a mathematical investigation

Social Skills COULD include:

- Consideration of a problem systemic to your class
- Completing an activity based on the Months' HRSS Social Skill
- Preparing a role play, written response, developing a questionnaire

Habits of Mind need to reflect the Habits of Mind for the month:

Problem-solving COULD include:

- A philosophical issue;
- A literacy, mathematics, science, LOTE etc. problem

The discussion undertaken and the strategies used are as important as the solving of the problem.

Physical Activity COULD include:

- Goal setting
- Physical movement actions
- Training, playing a game
- Reflecting on tactics, strategies, winning and losing

Relaxation COULD include:

- Listening to or playing music
- Participating in relaxation activities eg Yoga
- Gardening
- Having 'time out' for self
- Singing
- Drawing

This list should be considered as suggestions only