



# Southern Cross Primary School

## Homework Policy

**REVIEWED**

**October 2023**

**FUTURE REVIEW**

**October 2027**

### Purpose

To outline to our school community the Department's and Southern Cross Primary School's policy requirements relating to homework.

### Scope

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Southern Cross Primary School.

### Rationale

Southern Cross Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students. SCPS teachers are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise of reading, writing, spelling and mathematical activities that further support what has been explored at school.

Southern Cross Primary School has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing by fostering good lifelong learning and study habits supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

### Definitions

**Homework** is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

### Policy

At Southern Cross Primary School all homework set by teachers will be:

- Purposeful and curriculum-aligned
- appropriate to students' skill level and age
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

The types of homework that teachers at Southern Cross Primary School may include are:

- consolidation exercises for Literacy and Mathematics
- completing science investigation exercises
- making or designing artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising spelling words

- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with units of work
- applying new skills to home context such as:
  - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
  - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
  - growing plants
  - reviewing their favourite film or book
  - writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
  - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
  - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

#### *Prep to Year 4 (See Appendix A)*

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.

Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials. Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings. Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework or extracurricular activities (such as sport clubs and instrumental lessons) per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the school holidays.

#### *Year 5 to Year 6 (See Appendix A)*

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school. Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading and may include unfinished

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework or extracurricular activities (such as sport clubs and instrumental lessons) and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the school holidays.

### **Shared expectations and responsibilities**

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Southern Cross Primary School** are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Southern Cross Primary School** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning
- ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy

- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking homework to:
  - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had
  - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
  - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

## Support for students and parents/carers

Southern Cross Primary School understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/carers are concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage parents/carers to speak to their child’s teacher.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school’s website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## Related policies and resources

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Policy last reviewed       | October 2023  |
| Consultation               | Although not required for this policy, consultation took place with students and the community as well as School Council. |
| Approved by                | Principal   |
| Next scheduled review date | August 2027   |

## Appendix A – Homework Guidelines

| Year Level           | Procedures and Requirements  | Approximate Time Limits   | Follow Up   |
|----------------------|--|---|---|
| Foundation to Year 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child to read school reader to a parent and or sibling / adult.</li> <li>Parents and carers to read books to your child and allow them to join in with you where appropriate.</li> <li>Revising known sounds, letters and words listed in the home reader.</li> <li>Optional:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spelling and Sentence Dictation</li> <li>A task from the Mathematics Grid</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | <p><b>Completed each night:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundation - 10 minutes</li> <li>Year 1 – 15 minutes</li> <li>Year 2 – 20 minutes</li> </ul> <p>Foundation students will begin bringing readers home once the sounds and words have been introduced. At the beginning of the year, they may bring decodable word lists home.</p>     | <p>Teacher to monitor school reader sent and select based on individual need.</p> <p>Parent to acknowledge completion of homework in School Diary.</p>  |
| Year 3 to 4          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading - Child to read school reader throughout the week and complete a summary reflection at the end of the week.</li> <li>Spelling – complete the relevant spelling tasks related to the home reader or revision of taught content at school.</li> </ul> <p><b>Considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mathematics – your child may receive additional mathematics specific homework to support their consolidation of units of work covered at school.</li> <li>Integrated – there maybe times where students are asked to prepare a talk or project related to their units of work being completed in Science, History, Geography or other subject areas including life skills. When these tasks are assigned, they will take precedence over the reading, spelling and mathematics recommended homework.</li> </ul> | <p>This will depend on the number of extracurricular activities a student participates in outside of school. Parents are to take this into consideration when determining the time recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 minutes of reading a night</li> <li>30 minutes a week to complete Spelling, Math or optional tasks</li> </ul> | <p>A positive reward system to be in place for students who complete homework each week.</p> <p>Parents are encouraged to monitor the completion of their child’s homework at home to ensure it is completed, however SCPS understands that some families may struggle to complete all tasks due to personal commitments.</p> |
| Year 5 to 6          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading - Child to read school reader throughout the week and complete a summary reflection at the end of the week.</li> <li>Spelling – complete the relevant spelling tasks related to the home reader or revision of taught content at school.</li> </ul> <p><b>Considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mathematics – your child may receive additional mathematics specific homework to support their consolidation of units of work covered at school.</li> <li>Integrated – there maybe times where students are asked to prepare a talk or project related to their units of work being completed in Science, History, Geography or other subject areas including life skills. When these tasks are assigned, they will take precedence over the reading, spelling and mathematics recommended homework.</li> </ul> | <p>This will depend on the number of extracurricular activities a student participates in outside of school. Parents are to take this into consideration when determining the time recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 minutes of reading a night</li> <li>40 minutes a week to complete Spelling, Math or Optional Tasks</li> </ul> | <p>A positive reward system to be in place for students who complete homework each week.</p> <p>Parents are encouraged to monitor the completion of their child’s homework at home to ensure it is completed, however SCPS understands that some families may struggle to complete all tasks due to personal commitments.</p> |