

Scarborough Primary School



Strive

Homework Policy

The Scarborough primary school Homework Policy:

- is developed in consultation with the school staff and parents and endorsed by the school board;
- is available on the school website and communicated to students and parents annually at the term one parent information evening;
- is reflective of current research into the effectiveness of homework;
- includes general guidelines for parents as to how they can support and assist their children; and
- is supported and implemented by all staff.

The Scarborough primary school community believes homework should:

- support the development of the student's independence as a learner;
- further the partnership between school and home;
- avoid dependence on unreasonable levels of parental assistance or resources that are not readily available to the student;
- be set without impinging on reasonable time for family, cultural or recreational pursuits;
- be phased in gradually and consistently as students move through the primary years;
- be consistently applied in a whole-school approach that is responsive to individual needs;
- be disassociated from any form of punishing students;
- be non-compulsory, allowing parents the right to opt their child out of homework through discussion with the classroom teacher;
- not be completed seven days a week and a healthy balance is encouraged between homework and out of school activities.

Year	Daily Time	Content / Activities
K	10 mins	Take home pet pack, planning news telling, special tasks
P	15 mins	Reading, sight words, tricky words, news telling preparation, special tasks
1	20 mins	Reading, spelling, Mathletics, special tasks, sight words, news telling preparation
2	20 mins	Reading, spelling, Mathletics, special tasks
3	25 mins	Reading, spelling, Mathletics, special tasks
4	30 mins	Reading, spelling, Mathletics, special tasks
5	40 mins	Reading, spelling, Mathletics, special tasks, 10 week plan
6	40 mins	Reading, spelling, Mathletics, special tasks, 10 week plan

- Special Tasks – homework related to a specific topic being covered in the learning program. (e.g. Speakup, research, history topics, etc.)
- IEP – Students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) may have homework specific to their educational needs that is documented in their learning plan.
- Instrumental Music - Students who participate in the School of Instrumental Music (SIM) program are expected to practice their instrument on a regular basis at least five times per week. It is advisable that a routine is established when SIM lessons begin. Parents are asked to read the SIM Practice Journal and make comment about any problems their child may be having. The time commitment for each practice varies on instrument selection as well as the year of schooling.

Vacation Homework

Students on vacation during school term will not be provided with catch-up homework tasks. Students on vacation during term can continually read, complete Mathletics and keep a journal of their vacation that incorporates literacy and numeracy concepts. Homework is not set during usual school holiday periods.

A number of frequently asked questions are included as Appendix A to answer some of the common queries regarding homework.

School Board Endorsement – 19 October 2016

Review Date - 2019

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APPENDIX A – Frequently Asked Questions

Is homework compulsory?

The completion of homework is non-compulsory. If there is a specific reason your child cannot complete a task let the teacher who set the homework know via email or by writing a note. If you would like your child not to receive homework, please advise the classroom teacher in writing.

My child's homework is too hard for them.

Homework should not introduce new concepts. Some homework tasks can be completed independently, some requires supervision or assistance. If your child is experiencing anxiety or stress from completing homework, speak to your classroom teacher to discuss.

Can I have homework over the school holidays?

Teachers provide homework during the school term only. Over the holiday period children can continue to read and complete Mathletics tasks if they choose to.

Can the teacher provide work to complete on a family holiday during the term?

Family vacations during the school term are considered unauthorised absences by the Department of Education. During these vacations, a classroom teacher may be able to provide you with a copy of any homework tasks to be completed; generally this will include reading, spelling and Mathletics. Families going overseas should not take school resources such as library or reading books with them.

Will my child be assessed on their homework tasks?

Homework is not assessed by the teacher in a formal manner. A teacher may look at completed tasks and acknowledge that they have been attempted. Teachers will provide informal feedback to the students for completed tasks.