



HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONALE

At Virginia Primary School all students, from Reception to Year 7 may be set homework. Homework is set because we believe it helps students to develop the study habits and organisational skills, which will be necessary for further education and work success. It helps to develop a sense of responsibility for themselves and their learning. Homework provides an opportunity for students to practise and consolidate basic skills introduced in the classroom and also for students to continue their enjoyment of a learning experience. Homework is to be set so that it is developmentally appropriate and relevant to the learning in class. Homework is not new learning, rather the consolidation of learning in class. On another level, homework can provide an avenue for parents to talk with their children about learning. The staff at Virginia promote a balanced approach to study and leisure time, therefore many teachers set a hand up time of several days, thus allowing students to complete it while being involved in other recreational activities.

PROCEDURES

Homework tasks will vary at each year level. Generally there will be a progression from daily reading practice to tables and spelling through to research based contracts, problem solving and reading novels in the senior years. As a general guide:

- Students in Reception to Year 2 are likely to spend approximately 10 - 20 minutes, 4 nights per week.
- Students in Year 3/4 are likely to spend approximately 20 – 30 minutes, 4 nights per week.
- Students in Year 5/6/7 are likely to spend approximately 30 – 40 minutes, 4 nights per week.

RESPONSIBILITIES

For homework to be an effective part of the student's regular learning routine we all have a part to play.

Teachers are responsible for setting homework suitable to the age and ability of the student. This information will be communicated clearly to both the students and parents and procedures set up to check and provide feedback to students on their work at home. Students are responsible for completing and handing in homework on time. They need to be organised in taking the appropriate materials home and students should also speak to the teacher concerned if they having difficulties or need further explanation. Parents can support their child to complete homework while still encouraging independence e.g. giving hints on how to solve a problem rather than telling them the answer. Information about how to help students with homework will be made available through the class teacher, resource centre and the school website. A very important part of the parent role is communicating with the teacher e.g. letting the teacher know if the child is spending too long on homework or is finding the level of work inappropriate. If students do not have a valid reason and have not finished or handed up the required homework on time they will be asked to attend a catch-up session. Parents will be notified if this happens on more than one occasion.

Year level	Homework tasks maximum of 4 x weekly	Time allocation: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
Preschool	No homework – play is the work of young children	
Reception	R-1 Reading (to parent/ listening to a story/ looking at books) Practice of high frequency words May be an individualised task e.g. alphabet, double numbers, day of the week Physical and creative activity encouraged	Total homework time: 10 -15 minutes
Year 1		
Year 2	Reading (to parent) Practice of high frequency words May be individualised task e.g. alphabet, double numbers, months of the year Look/say/ spell/ cover/ write/ check for spelling words Interval counting by 10's, 5's and 2's	Total homework time: Yr 2 15 - 20 min
Year 3	Reading to self (or adult if still on levelled text) minimum of 10 minutes. (this can include bedtime reading) Practice times tables (Yr 3 – 2,5,10, later in year 3's) Look/say/ spell/ cover/ write/ check for spelling words and any high frequency 100 words not yet known	Total homework time: Yr 3 20 min
Year 4	Reading to self (or adult) minimum of 10 minutes. (this includes bedtime reading) Practice times tables (year 4/5 any tables after introduced in class) Look/say/ spell/ cover/ write/ check for spelling words and any high frequency 100 words not yet known Some finishing of tasks not completed within reasonable timeframe in class.	Total homework time: Yr 4 20 min
Year 5		Yr 5 30 min
Year 6/7	Minimum of 15 min reading Practice times tables not known, (all tables should be known.) Set tasks (eg spelling, maths, English, projects,) Some finishing of tasks not completed within reasonable timeframe in class.	Average homework time 40 minutes (self management of time is encouraged however some students need support to develop these skills)