

Rationale

While current research has shown that homework adds little academic value to a child's education, Ardross PS recognises that homework is a means of fostering relationships between the school and home, and is a valuable tool for keeping parents informed about the students' learning programmes and progress.

Homework in Practice

At Ardross Primary School homework will:

Encourage students to share what they have learnt with their parents, and be an opportunity for school and home to work cooperatively to support learning.

Develop skills relating to time management, goal setting and task completion.

Draw on academic skills and concepts that the students have already been taught in class.

Develop positive attitudes towards completing tasks at home.

Be implemented with a clear process for the distribution and monitoring. This process will be clearly communicated to both students and parents.

Be set consistently between classes in line with the guidelines below.

Principles of Homework

Homework can be a valuable experience.

It is the quality of the homework that is important, not the quantity.

Homework should be phased in gradually and consistently.

Homework should allow for discussion with parents to share and enhance skills and concepts already acquired.

Homework is not a form of punishment.

	Weekly Allocation	Homework Activities may include...
Pre-Primary Year 1 Year 2	10-15 mins daily 40-60mins weekly	Home Reading News Preparation Word List Revision Basic Number Facts (Practice)
Year 3 Year 4	20 mins daily 80mins weekly	Home Reading Spelling List Revision Mathematics Revision—Basic Number Facts Unfinished Classwork
Year 5 Year 6	30 mins Daily 120mins weekly	Home Research Assignment or Project Tasks Mathematics Revision—Key Concepts Unfinished Classwork

How Can Parents Help?

Parents can facilitate the homework process in many ways but responsibility to complete homework tasks rest with the student. The students' responsibility should be clearly communicated at both home and school.

The key to having a successful homework routine is habit. Students must be encouraged to see homework as part of their daily routine. Parents are encouraged to:

- Discuss an appropriate place for completing homework with their child and develop a shared agreement. The chosen homework place should be used consistently and be away from distractions.
- Select an appropriate time for homework which does not clash with chores, extra-curricular activities or favourite relaxation times. Ensure that children use this time consistently.
- Ensure appropriate materials are available in the home. These resources include paper, pencils, ruler, eraser, textas, atlas, dictionary, and digital technology.
- Show an interest in the work students are doing and provide guidance (without doing the work for them).
- Discuss the value of homework, positively encourage and praise when homework is completed.
- If your child has no set homework to complete, encourage them to use their homework time appropriately.

Homework and Vacations During Term

Teachers will NOT provide photocopied work packages for students who are missing school due to family vacations during the school term.

This is in keeping with the expectations outlined in the *Homework in Practice* section of this policy.

It is the belief of our school that a photocopied work package does not replace learning time with a teacher and may, in some cases, in fact be detrimental to a student's learning.

Ardross PS believes that, should family vacations need to take place during the school term, parents should strive to make these trips educationally valuable through:

- Students keeping a diary (written, visual, or digital) of their experiences while on vacation which can be shared with friends, family and classmates upon their return.
- Having students engage in a variety of educational and cultural activities while on vacation, such as museums, zoos, live performances, sightseeing tours and/or eating local cuisine.
- Helping to plan events and activities (both before and while travelling), assisting to navigate new areas, and taking responsibility for budgeting a specific amount of money to be put towards souvenirs and extras.