

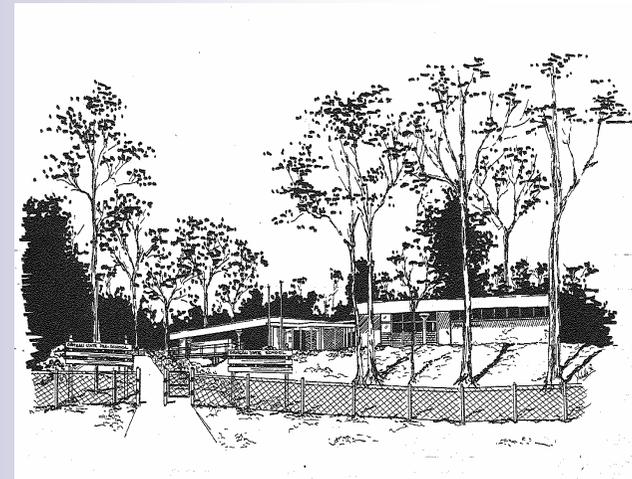
## Tips for Parents and Caregivers

Parents and Caregivers can help their children by:

- Encouraging them to take responsibility for their learning and organisation
- Taking an active interest in their school life by observing and acknowledging their children's participation and success
- Helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- Involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games with adults and physical activity
- Encouraging them to read and take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- Setting an example by reading themselves
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities
- Contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their child's approach to homework.
- Negotiating time with students
- Considering work environment at home.



Ormeau State School



# HOMework

## Homework

Homework is purposeful, out-of-class learning that seeks to enhance the extent to which individual students benefit from their education. It provides an opportunity for them to involve and share their learning with their families, to consolidate work learnt in the classroom and to prepare for lifelong learning beyond the classroom experience.

### Homework Across the Phases of Learning

In determining the amount of homework appropriate for students in different phases of learning, it is important to acknowledge that students of all ages should have the opportunity to engage in physical activity, leisure and cultural activities outside of school.

⇒ ***In the Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3)*** all activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills.

#### Homework tasks may include:

- Daily reading to, with, and by parent/caregivers or other family members
- Conversations about what is happening at school
- Preparation for oral presentations
- Opportunities to write for meaningful purposes
- Linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings.

**Homework in the *Early Phase* should generally not exceed 20 minutes per day with teachers generally not setting homework in the Prep year.**

⇒ ***In the Middle Phase of Learning (Year 4 to Year 9)*** homework may be completed over a weekly or fortnightly period and may:

- Include daily independent reading
- Be coordinated across different subject areas
- Include extension of class work, projects and research.

**Homework in the *Middle Phase* should generally not exceed 30 minutes per day for Years 4 and 5, 45 minutes per day for Years 6 and 7.**

## Types of Homework

#### Homework activities may include:

- Reading
- Students reading their own work to parents or caregivers
- Interactive homework tasks where the student and parents or caregivers complete an activity together
- Sharing something learnt at school with parents or caregivers
- Practising spelling words and mathematical concepts
- Tasks that involve research, investigation and problem solving
- Using technology
- Practising and playing musical instruments
- Making or designing art work
- Practising Languages Other than English
- Projects

Students may also undertake independent learning that complements these homework tasks.

## Role of the Teacher

#### Teachers can help by:

- Ensuring homework is directly linked to the curriculum
- Ensuring homework is purposeful, and relevant to students' interests
- Acknowledging the variety of homework activities
- Setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work
- Setting tasks that are appropriate to students' learning needs and that stimulate students' creative thinking, talents, community involvement and problem solving
- Liaising with other teachers in the school to ensure that the total amount of homework for a student aligns with the times described for their phase of learning
- Setting tasks to be completed over a weekly or fortnightly period, ensuring students have enough time to complete tasks, given home obligations and extra curricula activities
- Providing opportunities for students to develop organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning
- Checking homework and providing timely and practical feedback
- Discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to as-