



## Homework Policy

### Rationale

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practice, extension and consolidation of work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline. The Smithfield PS community strongly values the completion of homework and strongly recommends that all students complete provided homework tasks.

### Responsibilities:

**Students** are responsible for:

- Completing set homework each night/week
- Taking their homework home
- Independently completing their homework and asking for help if needed
- Allocating time to complete homework each night
- Asking their teacher for help if they do not understand their homework
- Looking after their homework book, folder or sheet
- Doing their homework to the best of their ability
- Returning homework for marking on the agreed day

**Parents** are responsible for:

- Establishing a routine for completing homework eg. a specific place for homework such as a room or desk, agreeing on a time for homework completion
- Encouraging and supporting their child with homework
- Listening to their child read, particularly in the early years and signing their 50 Nights of Home Reading record
- Signing homework if required by individual classroom teachers
- Encouraging their child to ask for help from the teacher if required
- Reminding their child to return their homework for marking on the agreed day
- Making a time to meet with the teacher if the child is unable to complete their homework or finding homework difficult
- Ensuring that the child only spends the suggested amount of time on homework

**Teachers** are responsible for:

- Implementing the school's Homework Policy
- Ensuring that homework is relevant and achievable for all students
- Communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to students and parents /caregivers
- Acknowledging student effort in completing homework and providing timely and relevant feedback on achievement
- Ensuring resources and materials are easily accessible for students
- Supporting students having difficulties with homework providing some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances



- Discussing with students and parents/ caregivers any developing issues regarding a student's homework or sending home attached letter should homework not be submitted on three separate weeks
- Referring identified students of need to Homework Club
- Discussing homework practices with colleagues to ensure consistency

**The Principal** is responsible for:

- Developing a Homework Policy, in consultation with the school community
- Communicating the Homework Policy to staff, students, parents and caregivers
- Monitoring and supporting teachers in the implementation of the Homework Policy
- Ensuring that homework is consistent with the school's learning goals
- Supporting the need for balance between homework and the many other commitments in student's lives
- Providing mechanisms for teachers and parents/caregivers to communicate about homework
- Recognising that some parents/caregivers may not agree with the school policy on homework. This may necessitate the development of alternative strategies

### **Suggested Time Allocations:**

The following recommendations are made by the Department of Education and Communities for each stage of learning:

**Kindergarten**, in general, is not expected to complete formal homework. Students may be given books to read at home or sight words to practise

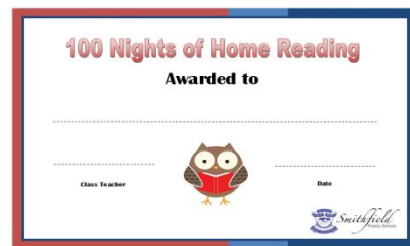
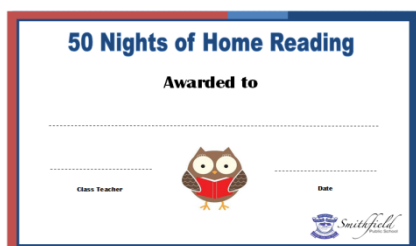
**Stage 1** maximum 15 minutes of homework Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

**Stage 2** maximum 20 minutes of homework Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

**Stage 3** maximum 30 minutes of homework Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

### **Home Reading**

Students K-6 are rewarded for home reading through the 50 Nights of Home Reading challenge. As they progress through the challenge they will be rewarded with 100 Nights of Home Reading certificate, 150 Nights etc.



A structured Home Reading program is implemented from Kindergarten to Stage 2. Home reading books may be included in the 50 Nights of Home Reading challenge. For independent readers, we recommend parents insist their child reads for 20mins each night before signing off their challenge.



*Smithfield*  
Public School

### **Other ways to support learning:**

There are many activities that children can do with families that support learning:

- Reading to your children or listening to them read to you
- Talking and listening to your children. Discuss family activities and plan them together.
- Write letters, birthday cards or invitations together
- Play board games together
- Measuring and counting activities when cooking or shopping
- Sporting activities e.g. swimming lessons, team sports
- Music or art lessons

In the early years of schooling, homework will tend to be done by promoting informal, optional activities with a high level of parent involvement and participation. As the emphasis changes to activities that are more formal in the later years, the parental role becomes a supervisory one.

### **Homework Club**

Smithfield PS staff support the volunteers of Smithfield Baptist Church in running a weekly homework club.

Homework Club operates on Thursday afternoons from 3.10-4.30pm at Smithfield Baptist Church hall. Students from Years 2-6 are referred to Homework Club based on need. Teachers will often approach parents / caregivers about their child attending Homework Club should difficulties arise with homework completion.

Parents /caregivers experiencing difficulties with homework, are encouraged to discuss Homework Club with their child's teacher.

### **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

Last revised: March, 2015

Review policy: March, 2018



*Smithfield*  
Public School

Appendix A

**Smithfield Public School**

**Homework Notice**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your child \_\_\_\_\_ has not completed homework on:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to discuss this matter or the homework, please contact the school to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Class Teacher

Stage Supervisor