



## HOMWORK POLICY

The students at this school are required to read or be read to each night. The amount and type of reading students undertake will be determined by their phase of learning and their individual needs. Teachers will outline the requirements of home reading at class meetings undertaken at the beginning of each year.

Teachers at Southern Grove Primary School do not provide students with formal homework or implement a formal homework regime. There may be times, however, when students are required to complete an activity at home to contribute to a classroom task (such as collect data for a graph or ask questions to complete a survey).

### Rationale

The staff at Southern Grove Primary School strongly believe that the benefits of positive family interaction and constructive family time are vital, and will result in improved student achievement. The results of research into the benefits of homework for students are varied. Preparation of students for the time commitment of homework anticipated in years to come is not, in itself, a reasonable basis for setting homework.

*The link between homework and student achievement is far from clear.*

There is no conclusive evidence that homework increases student achievement. Some studies show a positive effect, while other studies show no effect or even in some cases a negative effect from homework.

*The effect of parent involvement in homework is unclear.*

Studies of parent involvement in homework have produced mixed results. Some research says, that homework assignments that require interaction between parents and students results in higher levels of parent involvement. Other studies indicate that students whose parents are more involved have lower class grades.

### Why read to your child?

- Holding your children close while you read is an expression of love.
- You bring the magic of books to your children. You are the storyteller!
- You show your children how important reading is by modelling. Children learn by watching you.
- Books are a great way to talk about characters and their problems. You can laugh and cry together.
- Reading to your children gives them a chance to hear a variety of new words. They are learning new words in a fun way.
- Books can help you pass on your values in an easy and comfortable way.
- By reading books to your children, you can increase their listening skills. Their attention span will get longer. This will help them in school.





- By reading to your children, you help them stretch their imagination. It gives children a chance to dream.
- You are giving your children skills that will help them succeed in life.

## Participating in Life Skills

At Southern Grove Primary we encourage our families to get their children to do their share of work in the home and to engage in physical, social and mindful activities. These activities may include:

- Do a job at home to help your family. Some ideas may include: tidy your room, help to set the table for dinner, play with or feed your pet, brush your teeth without a reminder. When housework is done with parents and siblings, it becomes a bonding activity and can enhance family life. It teaches the values of responsibility and respect.
- Play a game with a parent or sibling. This is a special time to develop communication, problem solving and skills that can be transferred from adult to child. It can also teach the child to win and lose graciously. This could include outdoor games as well as indoor pastimes such as crosswords, Scrabble and a plethora of board games which emphasise pictorial, verbal, linguistic, monetary and even social skills.
- Engage in a physical activity. This includes both formal sporting activities as well as activities with parents and siblings such as walking, riding a bicycle, bushwalking, fishing, walking the dog, going to the beach and a whole range of active pursuits both indoors and outdoors.
- Listen to music, paint, draw, sew, play an instrument, dance – embrace the Arts.
- Do the food shopping together. This is a fantastic opportunity to spend time together and provides a real life context to apply mathematical concepts and language including money, size, length and volume. For example, you could count numbers of items, find the cheapest item, calculate simple totals, point to the longest/shortest, heaviest/lightest item.
- Go to bed early. It is vital that children get plenty of sleep.

## Help to build your child's independence.

We encourage parents to teach their child how to be organised for school each day. Set up a before school and after school routine to enable your child to become an independent learner.

Teach your child how to pack their own school bag with the belongings they need for the following day. Teach them how to unpack their lunchbox and drink bottle when they get home.

Teach your child how to dress and undress themselves, tie their shoelaces and brush their teeth.

Children feel empowered when they can get themselves ready and are well prepared for school each day.

