

# Homework: A Parent Guide

*Work, rest and play are all part of a balanced lifestyle.  
For your child, this may include homework.*

## **What is homework?**

Any task set by a teacher for students to carry out during non-school hours is homework.

## **What is the Department of Education's homework policy?**

The NSW Department of Education and Communities' homework policy requires each public school to develop a local homework policy that is relevant to the needs of students, developed in consultation with the school community, and shared with staff, students, and parents– particularly at the time of enrolment.

## **Is homework compulsory?**

No – Schools must have a homework policy but the setting of homework and the setting of time allocations across year groups is a decision for individual schools.

## **What does the research say about homework?**

The research is unclear – the idea that 'the more homework, the better' is not supported by research. Most researchers conclude that, for primary students, there is no evidence that homework lifts academic performance (Cooper, 1989, Walker 2011).

## **What is the policy at Strathfield South PS?**

Strathfield South acknowledges that students, staff, parents, and community members all have different views about homework.

At SSPS students participate in homework that is purposeful and relevant to their needs. The routine and structure behind completing homework as well as the effort put in by students is much more important than the quantity. At SSPS, we believe that it is important for parents to understand our homework expectations.

We also encourage involving children in family activities to assist with the development of literacy, numeracy and lifelong learning skills.

**Here are our guidelines for time spent on homework each night:**

Year	Reading	English & Mathematics - Homework book	Total minutes per day
Kindergarten	15 minutes	Not applicable	15 minutes
Year 1 & 2	10-15 minutes	10 minutes	25-30 minutes
Year 3 & 4	10-20 minutes	15 minutes	25-45 minutes
Year 5 & 6	20-30 minutes	20 minutes	25-45 minutes

**What about Kindergarten?**

Students are not expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. Students will be given home reading and other activities, where appropriate.

**What can you do if you are concerned about homework?**

We value communication between home and school so please contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns about homework.

**Homework at SSPS:**

- will be dated and sighted by a teacher each week.
- sets realistic expectations of students and teachers.
- is for your child, however we encourage you to support your child with their homework where possible.

**Extra resources**

Ways to support and engage your child in purposeful learning at home:

- <https://readingeggs.com.au/>
- [7 ways to challenge your child in Mathematics](#)
- <https://nrich.maths.org/>
- <http://www.mathematicshed.com/maths-challenge-shed.html>
- <https://www.literacyshed.com/>
- Joining your local library and becoming a frequent borrower

**For more help**

Have a look at the Department's homework tips website [here](#)