

## HOMEWORK POLICY

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff River Gum Primary School's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting homework.

### POLICY

River Gum Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers at River Gum Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise of reading, practice exercises or finishing incomplete tasks.

#### **Prep to Year 4**

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.

Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.

Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings.

'Rainbow Maths' will be an optional mathematics homework initiative. The purpose built website has fun hands on activities for students to work on maths goals with their families. Students will be assigned a rainbow colour by their classroom teachers at the beginning of the year. As they progress through the activities and become proficient in the Big Idea for that band colour they will receive a bracelet at assembly celebrating their success. The Rainbow Maths Website can be found at:

<https://sites.google.com/education.vic.gov.au/rgpsrainbowmaths/home>

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

#### **Year 5 to Year 6**

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.

Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading as well as a google classroom with reading and numeracy activities. These activities are self-guided and include explicit teaching videos to accompany the tasks.



Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

### **Shared expectations and responsibilities**

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

River Gum Primary School will support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools
- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and providing them with a copy of the homework policy
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- ensuring that upper primary students use reading diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

Teachers at River Gum Primary School will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing with their parents/carers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have



- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- ensuring upper primary students keep a reading diary
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

### Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at River Gum Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to their classroom teacher.

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
  - Homework Policy: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/homework/policy>

### REVIEW CYCLE

PREPARED BY	JORDAN WARREN
REVIEWED IN	SEPTEMBER 2021
REVIEWED BY STAFF	SEPTEMBER 2021
REVIEWED BY C.C	SEPTEMBER 2021
REVIEWED & RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL	SEPTEMBER 2021
NEXT REVIEW DATE	SEPTEMBER 2024

