



HOMework POLICY

1. Rationale or Purpose

The Homework Policy at Somerville Rise Primary School supports student learning and the school curriculum.

The following basic belief guides the implementation of the Homework Policy.

- Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.
- Homework allows parents to become involved in and share in their child’s learning and increases parents’ awareness of what the child is learning at school.

2. Policy Statement

At Somerville Rise Primary School homework is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child’s education. Parents, in partnership with this school, should encourage their children to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.

- Parents will be advised of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and be provided with a copy of the school’s homework policy.
- Students benefit from completing homework regularly. Homework helps them develop organisational and time-management skills, self discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources, and personal responsibility for learning.
- Students in Years 5 and 6 will use homework diaries. Diaries provide a means of regular communication between parents and the school.
- Failure by students to complete homework on a regular basis will be followed up with parents.

3. Budget area / Programs

Budget area

Program	Sub Program	Level 4 Code	Level 5 Code
Administration		700	
	Class Requisites		7050

4. Implementation :

Homework will be implemented at Somerville Rise Primary School according to the following practices.

Year Prep to 4

Homework will:

- enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials
- mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings
- generally not exceed 30 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during vacations.

Year 5 to 6

Homework will:

- include daily independent reading
- be coordinated across teachers in year level
- include extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research.
- generally range from 30 – 45 minutes a day

Types of Homework

Homework should be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- interesting, challenging, and where appropriate, open ended
- balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

Types of homework that meet these requirements include:

Practice exercises — providing our students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics
- practising spelling words
- practising words or phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English (Indonesian)
- reading for pleasure
- writing tasks
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising physical education skills.

Preparatory homework — providing opportunities for our students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:

- reading background material for research



- reading English texts for class discussion
- researching topics for class work
- collecting newspaper articles
- revising information about a current topic.

Extension assignments — encouraging our students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:

- writing a book review
- making or designing an art work
- completing Science investigation exercises
- researching local news
- finding material on the Internet
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

Expectations

Parents and caregivers

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation
- observing and acknowledging their success and taking an active interest in Somerville Rise Primary School work and events for example open nights, displays and productions in which their children are involved
- encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework
- setting an example by reading themselves
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with homework
- helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources. It is better to encourage children to complete homework themselves
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities
- checking whether homework has been set and ensuring that the homework diary or reading log has been completed

Teachers

Teachers can help their students by:

- setting regular homework to help students establish a home study routine
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work that are appropriate to the students' learning needs and skill level
- giving students enough time to complete homework, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support (for example; peer assessment, brief comment, teacher signature)
- making effective use of homework diaries and reading logs
- coordinating the allocation of homework by staff across year levels

- helping students develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning
- ensuring that parents and caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy
- developing strategies to support parents to become active partners in homework.

4. Evaluation and review

A review of the Homework Policy will be undertaken every two years.

The review will be the responsibility of the school's Leadership Team and will be based on feedback from parents and staff members.

This policy was ratified by school council on June 2009