



Moreton Downs State School  
**HOMework POLICY**

# MORETON DOWNS STATE SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

## THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEWORK:

Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning. Homework allows students additional time to practice skills and concepts learnt in the classroom. It is also an opportunity to practice a variety of social skills to ensure that students are best prepared to handle life situations beyond the school and home environment.

Homework is also an important area in terms of allowing students to practice and deepen their knowledge. There is evidence to suggest a link between organisation and time management skills, and success at university. In a study by Cooper (1989a), he found that the relationship between the amount of homework students do and their achievement outcomes, was found to be positive and statistically significant. Concluding that doing homework (the right homework) caused improved academic achievement (Robert J. Marzano - *The Art and Science of Teaching*).

## HOMEWORK AT MORETON DOWNS STATE SCHOOL

At Moreton Downs State School, we aim for our homework program to work specifically on improving students' organisation and time management, helping them to develop good study habits, foster positive attitudes towards school, and communicate to students the idea that learning takes work at home as well as at school (Cooper in *The Art and Science of Teaching* – Robert J. Marzano) and also to assist students in:

- Being Respectful
- Being Responsible
- Being Safe
- Being Resilient; and
- Being a Learner.

These keys will be reinforced on a day-to-day basis with students at school, we would certainly like to see our school expectations being utilised and practised at home as well, as our greatest success occurs when home and school align.

All homework tasks need to take the following factors into consideration for the above to be achieved successfully:

- Homework is carried out on a regular basis
- Homework is reflective of the in-class curriculum
- Homework will involve reading and associated activities
- Homework will not impede on family commitments (sporting, cultural, etc)
- Homework will involve the family and activities/routines of the family
- Prep year will receive minimal homework
- Years 1-3 homework will not exceed approximately 1 hour per week
- Years 4-6 homework will not exceed approximately 2 hours per week
- Students are able to prepare for assessment tasks (collect data, research, practice, create some resources), but not carry out assessment tasks at home

## **Teachers' responsibility with regards to homework:**

- Ensure students are implementing the school's homework policy
- Set and monitor homework on a regular basis
- Clearly communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
- Check homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback
- Use homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to student's learning needs
- Explicitly teach strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and provide opportunities to practice these strategies through homework
- Give consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework
- Discuss with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggest strategies to assist with their homework

## **Students' responsibility with regards to homework:**

- Be aware of the school's homework policy
- Discuss with their parents or caregivers homework expectations
- Accept responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- Follow up on comments made by teachers
- Seek assistance when difficulties arise
- Organise their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports and recreational and cultural activities

## **Parents/Caregivers responsibility with regards to homework:**

- Read to students, talk to them and involve them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity
- Help students to complete tasks by discussing key questions or direct them to resources
- Encourage students to organize their time and take responsibility for their learning
- Encourage students to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- Help students to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities
- Contact the classroom teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to homework
- Contact the classroom teacher if students are unable to meet homework requirements



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

It is not the responsibility of the class teacher to provide extra activities or extension work for students to complete outside of school hours. Parents wishing for their child to complete extra homework activities are responsible for providing and marking this work.

The classroom teacher and the class will negotiate a time for the completion of homework.

Set homework will include some tasks which are compulsory and others being recommended.

**An example of a homework sheet/grid for a Year 5 class**

<p><b>Year 5 Homework – Week 3</b> Children need to complete the 4 compulsory activities with a smiley face</p>	<p><b>Maths</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">😊</p>	<p>Access your assigned on-line resource.</p> 
<p><b>Reading</b> Read your home reader with a family member or login to reading eggs.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">😊</p>	<p><b>English</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">😊</p>	<p>Find 5 of your spelling words in a magazine or newspaper. Try to use these words in an interesting sentence.</p>
<p><b>TRIVIA</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the opposite of transparent?</li> <li>2. What is the normal body temperature of a human body: 30°C, 37°C or 42°C?</li> <li>3. What does the e in email stand for?</li> <li>4. If I have 5 x 50c pieces, and 8x 20c pieces, how much do I have altogether?</li> <li>5. What did Alexander Graham Bell invent?</li> <li>6. Is a test-tube made out of wood or glass?</li> <li>7. Where would you find the Royal Australian Mint?</li> <li>8. Does the expression to smell a rat mean to be suspicious, angry or bossy?</li> <li>9. What is the baby in the Simpson T.V. cartoon called?</li> <li>10. If a train leaves at 3:00 and takes 3 and ¾ hours to reach its destination, what will the time be when it arrives?</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;">☆</p>	<p><b>SOSE/Science</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">☆</p>	<p>Explain to your family our new school rules and what you think they mean.</p>
	<p><b>Home Activity</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">😊</p>	<p>Take the time to tell your family about school this week. Tell them about a part of the week you really enjoyed and why.</p>
	<p><b>NOTICES FOR THE FAMILY</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Don't forget swimming this week on Wednesday. We leave school for the pool at 9:15am.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Assembly this Thursday – 2pm.</b></li> </ol>	
<p><b>LOG IN INFORMATION</b></p> <p><b>Reading Eggs login:</b> <b>Mathletics login:</b></p>		

- **Activities with a smiley face indicate compulsory tasks.**

Reading – approximately 30mins  
 English – approximately 30 mins  
 Maths problem – approximately 10 mins  
 Home activity – approximately 10 mins



- **Activities with a star are recommended tasks.** ☆

SOSE/Science  
 Trivia

# MORETON DOWNS STATE SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

## PARENT AGREEMENT

At Moreton Downs State School, we aim for our homework program to work specifically on improving students' organisation and time management, helping them to develop good study habits, foster positive attitudes towards school, and communicate to students the idea that learning takes work at home as well as at school (Cooper in *The Art and Science of Teaching* – Robert J. Marzano) and also to assist students in:

- Being Respectful
- Being Responsible
- Being Safe
- Being Resilient; and
- Being a Learner.

At MDSS we firmly believe our greatest success occurs when home and school align.

### **Teachers' responsibility with regards to homework:**

It is the teachers' responsibility to be clear in communicating homework timelines, requirements, purpose, benefits and expectations. Setting and checking homework regularly and providing timely and useful feedback is standard practice. Homework will be directly related to class work and appropriate to student's learning needs. Teachers at MDSS are considerate of the outside academic and personal development activities their students are involved in.

### **Students' responsibility with regards to homework:**

It is the students' responsibility to discuss, accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames, follow-up on comments made by teachers and to seek assistance when difficulties arise. Students must organise their time to manage home obligations, and participation in extra-curricular activities outside of school hours.

### **Parents/Caregivers responsibility with regards to homework:**

Reading to students and involving them in tasks at home, whilst helping and encouraging them to take responsibility for their learning are significantly important. If students are still unable to meet homework requirements the parent is responsible for contacting the classroom teacher.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

It is not the responsibility of the class teacher to provide extra activities or extension work for students to complete outside of school hours.

The classroom teacher and the class will negotiate a time for the completion of homework. Set homework will include some tasks which are compulsory and others being recommended.

I \_\_\_\_\_ as parent/caregiver have read the Homework Policy for Moreton Downs State School and understand the information contained within.

I \_\_\_\_\_ as a student of Moreton Downs State School, understand the information contained within the Homework Policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parents/Caregivers Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Students Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

