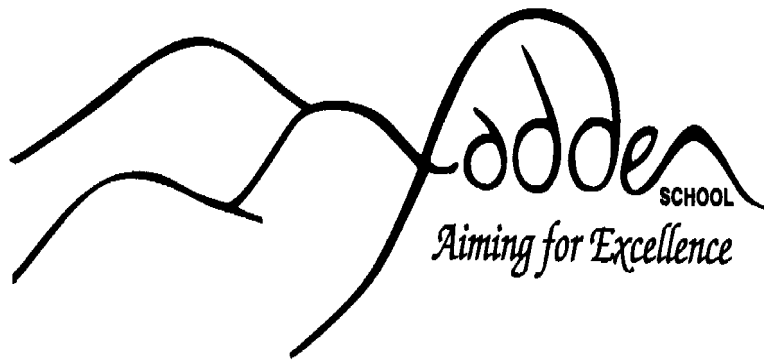


# Fadden Primary School



# Homework Policy

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## **Purpose.**

An important part of a child's education is the transfer of learning into his/her activities outside of the school setting.

"Homework is purposeful out-of-school learning that seeks to enhance the extent to which each child benefits from the school's educational program."

The PETA Guide to Homework.

A Handbook for parents and teachers.

Edited by Katrina Zammit. p.6.

The Fadden Primary School community values homework as a means of building partnerships between teachers, students and parent. As well as work set by teachers, activities provided by the family are recognized as valued "purposeful out-of-class learning". This includes such activities as sports participation, family excursions (e.g. to the Art Gallery, Questacon, The Science and Technology Centre, the war memorial, Floriade) walking (family strolls and bush walking) cooking, supervised computer interactions and television watching, learning musical instruments, singing, family discussions and travel.

At Fadden Primary School, we believe that homework is important to:

Facilitate:

- the development of good study habits, time management and organizational skills.
- parental awareness of the development of skills and abilities.
- the development of active learners.
- the development of self-directed learners

And to:

- practise and refine skills taught in the classroom.
- build confidence.
- practise goals setting and develop responsibility.
- share the school learning experience with parents.
- continue learning at home
- develop communication between students, parents and teachers.
- pursue extra and special activities.

## **Homework responsibilities.**

### **Teacher responsibilities:**

- to clearly communicate homework expectations to students.
- to assign, monitor and acknowledge student homework.
- to provide interesting, challenging homework with a balance of open-ended, practical and creative work.
- to take into account the out-of-school lives of the individual students and to be flexible and sensitive in setting timelines.

**Student responsibilities:**

- to understand the purpose and scope of the homework assignment.
- to ask for help from teachers and parents if needed.
- to attempt activities with maximum effort.
- to return the homework to school at the agreed time.

**Parent responsibilities:**

- to understand that homework is any purposeful out-of-class learning activity that seeks to enhance the extent to which each child benefits from the school's educational program.
- to provide encouragement and support for homework efforts.
- to provide a comfortable, quiet well-lit homework area away from distractions.
- to provide materials such as writing pencils/pens, coloured pencils, eraser, ruler.
- to confer with teachers regarding concerns.

**Acceptable time spent on set homework.**

Below are set out the times believed to be acceptable to spend on formal homework activities per week. It is recognized that it is important for parents and children to talk, read, play games and enjoy quality time together. It is acknowledged that children engage in many acceptable 'homework activities' that are beyond the homework set by teachers.

<b>Year levels.</b>	<b>Time per week.</b>
Kindergarten	Some reading each day. Talking about and collecting items for class themes and news time.
Years 1 and 2	30 minutes
Years 3 and 4	1 hour
Years 5 and 6	1 and 1/2 hours

**NOTE:** Daily reading is a necessary part of homework, K – 6, in order to practise and develop reading skills and to read for pleasure.

**What constitutes acceptable homework activities?****Informal homework.**

Observing and talking such as retelling family events, giving opinions and accepting those of others, discussing holiday plans, telling jokes and reciting rhymes.

Writing to family members - letters, birthday cards, get well cards.

Reading alone, to and with people things like novels, comics, newspapers and information texts.

Playing.

Painting, drawing.

Singing.

Playing a musical instrument.

Sport participation.

Cooking.

Plant care.

Looking after pets.

Sorting the washing.

Family shopping.

Marking the calendar e.g. with school events such as an athletics carnival.

Computer related activities such as educational games, emailing, using the internet.  
Drawing, painting, construction.

### **Formal homework.**

Activities (to practice independently, already introduced skills) from any of the eight key learning areas (English, Mathematics, Science, Studies of Society and the Environment, Technology, The Arts, Language Other Than English (Japanese) and Health and Physical Education).

Such activities could include:

- Practice and consolidation of skills and knowledge.
- Reading for enjoyment and reading tasks (such as a book review).
- Writing tasks (such as stories, poems, songs, expositions).
- Spelling activities. (Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check).
- Purposeful viewing and listening (e.g. watching of selected television programs, to examine gender stereotyping, or a study of current affairs).
- Speaking to gain information (such as, with family to gain information for a graph about the favourite fruit of family members) or prepare a speech.
- Talking to hear opinions (e.g. on good methods of making friends).
- Mathematics/numeracy skills.
- Problem solving.
- Collecting items e.g. things that were used in the past.
- Research topics e.g. for assignments/projects and use of reference books such as the atlas.
- Designing and making items.
- Art work.
- Sports skills (e.g. throwing and catching).
- Environmental activities.
- Practice of social skills.

### **Completion of Homework**

Teachers and parents wish to facilitate a love of learning. Teachers understand that many children are very busy with out-of-school activities and teachers do not want set homework to become a cause of friction or distress in families. Set homework should not intrude on family life for which the parents have ultimate responsibility. Teachers will remind students about set homework and encourage them to hand it in. If homework is not handed in on a regular basis, students will be asked to explain why and parents will be informed. Children will not be kept from break times (recess and lunch) or precluded from class activities (such as sport or art) to complete unfinished homework.