



MCDOWALL STATE SCHOOL – HOMEWORK POLICY

1. Why we set homework

At McDowall State School, we use homework in small amounts to support what children learn in class. Research shows that homework in primary school has benefits when it is short, clearly linked to classwork, and focused on skills children need to practise. The most helpful homework for primary students is daily reading, plus small practice tasks like number facts or quick revision.

2. What effective homework looks like

Homework at our school is guided by these principles:

- Linked to class learning – Tasks reinforce what students are learning now. There is no “busy work.”
- Clear purpose – Children know why they are doing each activity (e.g., consolidate, practise, review).
- Short and manageable – Short, focused tasks lead to better learning than long worksheets.
- Supports wellbeing – Homework should never cause stress at home.
- Accessible for everyone – Tasks do not require special materials or technology, however optional online tasks such as Mathletics will still be available.

3. How homework is checked

Teachers do not mark every item of homework in detail. Research shows this isn’t needed for students to benefit. Instead, we use simple, effective feedback methods:

- Quick check-ins to acknowledge completion.
- Short verbal or written reminders about what to work on next.
- Whole-class review of common errors.
- Self-checking or peer-checking for simple tasks.

This approach is more effective for primary-aged children than intensive written marking. Verbal feedback should be acknowledged with a stamp and signature.

4. Time guidelines

These time limits help keep homework reasonable and aligned with research.

Year level	Time limits	Tasks
Prep – Year 2	10–15 minutes per day	Mostly reading, with occasional short practice tasks.
Years 3–4	15–20 minutes per day	Daily reading plus a short task linked to class learning.
Years 5–6	30–45 (max) minutes per day	Daily reading plus a small practice or revision task.

If your child is unable to complete the tasks in the timeframe provided, please stop and let the teacher know.

5. Roles and responsibilities

Teachers will:

- Set homework that is achievable, meaningful, and connected to classroom learning.
- Review homework using simple, timely feedback strategies.
- Keep tasks accessible for all families.

Students will:

- Try their best within the time limits.
- Bring homework back to school and ask for help when needed.

Parents and caregivers will:

- Support and encourage daily reading.
- Contact the teacher if homework is becoming stressful or cannot be completed.

6. Our commitment

- Homework will never be used as punishment.
- We understand that afternoons can be busy—please communicate with us if homework becomes difficult.
- Our goal is to support learning and build positive study habits over time.