



# Our Statement on Homework

## Background

Research suggests that homework has a minimal impact on learning.<sup>1 2</sup> There is only a minor correlation between homework and student achievement in secondary years. The school acknowledges that many parents judge the quality of a school on the presence of homework but research also indicates that when given, the quality of homework is far more important than quantity, and that 10 - 15 minutes of homework is often as effective as 1-2 hours.

## Our Position

At Fremantle Primary School we suggest the following homework

**Year PP-2:** Reading (home readers) completed to support in-class learning.

**Years 3-6:** Homework for students in Years 3-6 may include home reading and spelling lists.

Teachers at Fremantle Primary School encourage the following;

1. **Read or be read to every night**

Reading is fundamental to functioning in today's society and helps children develop their imagination and cognitive skills. Students who are read to gain essential pre-reading and oral language skills that are critical for learning. We hope that children will develop a love of reading so a set time or number of pages is not always appropriate.

2. **Get outside and play**

Play is learning. Children need real-life interactions to develop a range of skills. Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and social/emotional strength. Play is important for healthy brain development. It is through play that children from a very early age engage and interact in the world around them. Limiting screen time will allow for greater time to play.

3. **Get a good night's sleep**

The benefits of a good night's sleep include helping the body to grow, improved immune system, better memory, becoming more attentive and active in class and improved behaviour.

Short homework tasks for senior students (Yrs 4-6) may assist the development of self/time management skills, and setting and completing tasks in preparation for secondary school. Emphasis again should be on the quality of homework over quantity.

Parents may use the online learning programs, Mathletics and Reading Eggs, which the school subscribes to.

We believe that homework should not be linked to any rewards systems or any punitive measures. We also recognise that parents have the right to opt out of homework for their child.

<sup>1</sup> Higgins et al., The Sutton Trust-Education Endowment Foundation Teaching and Learning Toolkit. London: Education Endowment Foundation.2014

<sup>2</sup> Hattie, J. 2014. "The Educators. Sarah Montague Interviews - John Hattie." BBC Radio 4, August 20, 2014.