



Tolga SS Home Reading Policy

Rationale

At Tolga State School, we believe the most important thing that children need to mature is a strong attachment to a caring adult. We believe the time after school for family, cultural and recreation activities is already very limited. We see it more conducive to the maturation of children to encourage families to spend time together to support the child's overall development. Furthermore, children need time for free play for optimal development.

However, we also strongly advocate for the inclusion of Reading in our home routines. Reading to and with primary school aged children has been proven to improve cognitive skills and help move forward the process of cognitive development.

These beliefs are what lead us as a school to advocate a "home reading" policy in preference to a "homework" policy.

Responsibilities of Teachers

- be aware of the school's home reading policy and ensure it is implemented and followed;
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy;
- clearly communicate the expectations for their home reading program to parents and students at the beginning of each year;
- ensure the readers that are set are understood and able to be accessed by the student either through independent reading or shared reading with a parent;
- provide opportunities for students to discuss their home reading within the classroom environment;
- monitor the home reading practices of their students;
- help students to develop organisational and time-management skills;
- contact parents/caregivers to discuss any concerns regarding home reading;
- seek feedback from students about set home readers, including frustration levels.

Teachers are not required to set home reading over holiday periods or at times where students are taken on in-term vacation breaks.

Responsibilities of Students

- be aware of the school's home reading policy;
- be responsible for accessing home readers through their classroom or the TSS Resource Centre (dependent on Year Level and class expectations) and checking with the teacher around suitability;
- submit any completed home reading artefacts eg reading journals, etc, according to the instructions of the teacher, when expected;
- discuss any difficulties they are experiencing with home reading with their teacher/s; and
- follow up on feedback made by their teacher.

Responsibilities of Parents

- be aware of and support the school's home reading policy;
- encourage their child to complete home reading and check their reading artefacts eg home reading journal;
- discuss home reading tasks and expectations with their children in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences;
- providing a reading area at home and a supportive environment (e.g. free from major distractions), together with a routine that fits with the family;
- support your child to develop an age appropriate level of independence in completing home reading;
- encourage, praise and provide guidance and support as is required; and
- contact the relevant teacher/s to discuss any concerns about home reading.

Guidelines

Home reading needs to be completed daily. The table below provides suggested time to be allocated to home reading.

Year Level	Approximate Time per night
Prep	15-20 mins
Year 1	15-20 mins
Year 2	15-20 mins
Year 3	20-30 mins
Year 4	20-30 mins
Year 5	20-30 mins
Year 6	20-30 mins

Tolga SS acknowledges that some parents/carers may wish to access further tasks for completion at home. Please consult your classroom teacher for more information on where you may be able to access appropriate material for your child/ren.