

HOMEWORK POLICY

In Queensland State Schools the purpose of a Homework Policy is to communicate homework expectations and support to students and their families, as well as to ensure that homework

- is effective in supporting learning
- allows sufficient time for family, recreation and community
- does not disadvantage students due to a lack of access to resources

Our approach to homework encompasses our school motto, *Passion & Purpose*, by taking the form of PASSION PROJECTS each term. Importantly, it supports our values of EPIC Learners, who are Empowered, Polite, Inclusive and Careful.

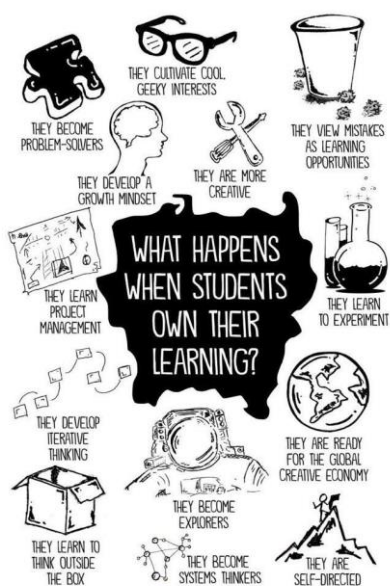


IMAGE CREDIT : John Spencer

John Spencer, a former teacher and now professor, as well as a best-selling author, is a believer in empowering students (and teachers) to own their learning through the power of creativity. You can learn more about John Spencer here <https://spencerauthor.com/>

His work centred around 'What happens when students own their learning?' is our inspiration for our Homework Policy and much of our pedagogical practices (the way we teach) at school.

How do we define a PASSION PROJECT as part of our Homework Policy?

We share a belief that at our school, as part of our homework policy, a PASSION PROJECT is a way for a child to **capture** and **share**

- a new learning of interest,
- an extended learning about something they are passionate about
- an innovation / design for something new.

Our Homework Policy allows time for students to be athletes, musicians, active and caring community members, creative, entrepreneurs, creators, problem solvers, curious and importantly 'children'! PASSION PROJECTS allow for children to engage in a hobby or new activity, document their learning or journey however they chose and then present their PASSION PROJECT to an audience.

What does this mean for students and their families each term?

The PASSION PROJECT will be due in week 10 of the term. This gives students and their families freedom and flexibility to dedicate time when it is suitable to them. We know that some weeks are very busy and others are not. This extended timeline helps students plan, monitor progress and prepare for an end of term event. It also allows time for family, friends, sport, culture, religion, hobbies, pets, play and fun after school and on weekends.

How can you support your child's PASSION PROJECT for homework?

You can help your child

- through the gift of time - time for them to ask questions, seek clarity, ask for help.
- by checking in with them about their idea for their PASSION PROJECT and assist if they need any materials (encourage recycled materials if possible).
- asking your child's teacher for advice if your child is struggling, stuck or confused.

How will we support your child's PASSION PROJECT for homework?

Class teachers will also monitor throughout the term through conversation check ins. We will also offer an Passion Project Planning template that students may like to use. It may be a stimulus to your child's own creative thinking, problem solving and spark their curiosity. We also provide a Q&A template that can help your child prepare for the conversations that may occur with their classmates, teacher and visitors to our Passion Project Fair. These are all available on our website.

How will we monitor this homework PASSION PROJECT throughout the term?

Teachers will have informal check in points with students to discuss their plan, progress and preparation for the end of term celebration and sharing due date.

How will students share their PASSION PROJECT at the end of term?

Each term, we will host a Passion Project Fair in week 10. Please keep an eye out for the date claimer information and invite to attend.

Does a PASSION PROJECT need to be related to what a child is learning at school at the time?

The short answer is no. PASSION PROJECTS allow for freedom in thinking and creation. The content of the PASSION PROJECT does not need to be related to what a child is learning in class at the time, however it could be if the child is looking to extend their learning. Skills being learnt in the use of technology may be used as part of the sharing and presentation of the PASSION PROJECT, however is not mandatory. PASSION PROJECTS do not form any part of assessment and we do not report on homework at our school.

Is a PASSION PROJECT compulsory?

No. Homework at our school is not compulsory, however it is encouraged. The sharing and celebration of our PASSION PROJECTS will become an important part of our school culture and calendar and is one way for our students to demonstrate they are **EPIC** Learners (**E**mpowered, **P**olite, **I**nclusive, **C**areful). Planning, time management and meeting deadlines/due dates are important skills to learn to assist with learning now and into the future.

Where does my child start?

If your child does not have any ideas to commence with, you can use the Passion Project Planning page to support them. You might like to also explore <https://www.wonderopolis.org/> with your child or encourage them to read some of our books in the Curiosity Centre that set the scene for PASSION PROJECTS. 'Mystery Doug' has a YouTube Channel exploring inquiry-based questions that might spark some curiosity for your child too. You can also explore our You Tube channel to watch previous Passion Project Fair video highlights.

Homework at our school will not include...

- worksheets or tasks due on Fridays
- home readers (however we encourage borrowing from our Curiosity Centre to develop a LOVE for reading at home)
- high frequency word lists, spelling lists or times tables practice

Families who value this style of homework are welcome to arrange this themselves through the purchase or subscription of commercial resources/products.

Ripley Central State School's Homework Policy supports our school's journey in creating student agency on a pathway to student empowerment. Parents and Carers can borrow from the Curiosity Centre, the text, **Empower by John Spencer and A.J. Juliani** if they would like to learn more.

