

## 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 **E**mpowered, **P**olite, **I**nclusive and **C**areful.

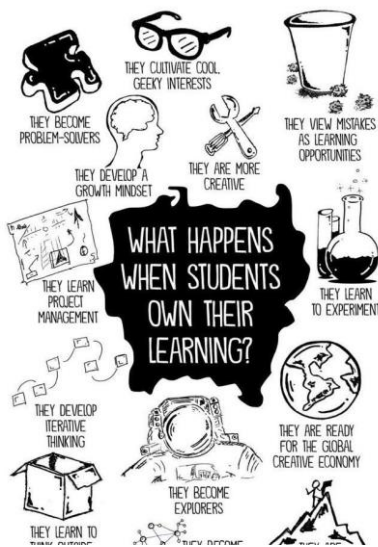


IMAGE CREDIT : John Spencer

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 is centred around 'What happens when students own their learning?' and is our inspiration for our Homework Policy along with 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?

Each term, we will send home with students an update about their term PASSION PROJECT task. 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)
- by 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?

We will offer one morning a week where students can attend 'The Passion Project Club'. If they have questions, need guidance or simply would benefit from some routine and dedicated time to assist with their time management they can attend this club. Class teachers will also monitor how they are travelling with their project throughout the term. We will also offer a; 'Hints, Tips and Ideas' information brochure that may be a stimulus for your child's own creative thinking, problem solving and to spark their curiosity.

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

Teachers will have check in points with students to discuss their plan, progress and preparation for the end of term celebration and sharing due date. Teachers will communicate with parents and carers if they have concerns.

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

Each term, we will have a different focus on how we share students and staff PASSION PROJECTS (Yes! Our staff are also going to complete PASSION PROJECTS if they choose). This may be in the form of a class presentation to their peers and teacher, an open classroom (for parents to also attend), a year level or whole school PASSION PROJECT Showcase Fair. The Term Update will outline the due date and audience for the term.

## 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 passionate about the topic and 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.

## 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?

Start by looking at the 'Term Update' for details about when the task is due and any 'Hints, Tips and Ideas' in the brochure. 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. Your child can also talk with their teacher or attend The Passion Project Club for ideas and support.

## Homework at our school will not include:

- worksheets or tasks due on Fridays
- home readers 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.

