



HOMWORK POLICY

Policy No. 1.11

Rationale

Homework is designed to complement and reinforce classroom programs, foster lifelong learning and study habits, and provides an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Homework also provides an opportunity for parents or caregivers to participate in the child's education. In partnership with the school, parents/caregivers will encourage the child to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.

The development of a student's attitude to learning and the responsibility they take for that learning will be influenced by the support and encouragement they receive from home and school.

Wales Street Primary School is committed to providing homework opportunities for students at each stage of their development consistent with the Department of Education and Training Guidelines. It is our belief that homework should gradually increase in difficulty and time commitment from Prep to Year 6, and that students should take increasing responsibility for their own learning and organisation as appropriate to their development.

Aim

Provide homework that is designed to:

- Reinforce, rehearse and extend skills learned in the classroom
- Encourage the students to work independently
- Help students to develop organisational and time management skills
- Reinforce the child's confidence and enjoyment in learning
- Assist students to develop the skills of knowing where and how to find information and solve problems
- Develop appropriate habits and attitudes that are required throughout their education
- Provide parents/caregivers with an opportunity to participate in and feel connected to their child's education

Guidelines for Implementation

Teachers' responsibilities include:

- Setting regular relevant homework to help students establish a home study routine
- Providing homework that complements, reinforces and extends classroom learning
- Providing homework that has a clear and easily recognisable purpose
- Taking into account that children learn at different rates and have different needs
- Explaining homework tasks in class time so common issues, concerns and problems can be dealt with.
- Ensuring that expectations and criteria for each task are clear to children and parents
- Carefully considering resources needed to complete homework tasks and supporting students to access appropriate resources (eg. Internet access)
- Assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support.
- Ensuring that parents/caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy via the school website.
- Communicating to parents the homework expectations for that year level, during the beginning of the year Parent Information Exchange Night and on a regular basis.

Students' responsibilities include:

Taking home and returning set work

- Negotiating access to appropriate resources with their classroom teacher
- Discussing homework tasks with parents or care givers
- Asking for support or assistance when needed

- Managing their time appropriately to ensure completion of homework within the set time frame

Parents’/Caregivers’ responsibilities include:

- Providing support and encouragement
- Acknowledging the child’s efforts and providing positive feedback
- Providing assistance but not completing the task
- Providing an appropriate work space
- Directing the child to available resources or encouraging the child to seek help if resources are unavailable
- Helping the child to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities

Implementation

In the Early Years (Prep to Year 4) homework will consist mainly of reading and skills practice, and in accordance with Department of Education and Training guidelines, homework will not exceed 20 minutes a day/night.

Home Learning tasks set by the class teacher could include:

- Practicing sounds- (prep)
- Take home books per week from a lower level than the classroom instructional level in order to focus on fluency and comprehension, with the expectation reading takes place nightly for approx. 10 minutes.
- Mathematics tasks set for all students that can be completed at home.
- ‘Reading Eggs’ lessons for students to work through at home.
- Inquiry units **MAY** involve a small survey or artefact task for students to complete and return to school. This would not exceed more than 1 task per unit (maximum 6 per year)
- Grade 3 and 4 students select their own home reading books aligned with the Lexile program which provides a selection guide so students can choose books at their reading level. There are also associated tasks that may be set by the class teacher at regular times of the year to review progress

In the Middle Years 5 & 6:

Homework activities aim to reinforce concepts learnt at school whilst establishing lifelong learning routines. Students in Grade 5/6 are expected to complete a minimum of 30 minutes home reading each night.

Home Learning tasks set by the class teacher could include:

- Assigned *Mathletics* activities during the week and a variety of tasks set by the home group teacher.
- Students select their own home reading books. They are encouraged and guided by their teacher to choose books at their reading level.
- Program of Inquiry- tasks related to their current unit of inquiry either research tasks or summative assessment task to be worked on or completed at home.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of a major review in a three-year cycle but will be also be reviewed annually to amend any changes.

Version	Edited by/Comments	Next review
2012	Approved by School Council	2016
May 2016	Reviewed by Policy committee/ Ratified by School Council	2019