
Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Westgarth Primary School's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

Scope

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting homework / reading.

Policy

Westgarth Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers at Westgarth Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful.

Westgarth Primary School provides optional homework tasks that any student can access from the school website.

Prep to Year 4

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility.

Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carers or older siblings.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework / reading per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

Year 5 to Year 6

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative.

Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework / reading and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

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Shared expectations and responsibilities

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Westgarth Primary School will support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools
- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- encourage students to engage in optional homework tasks available on the school website

Teachers at Westgarth Primary School will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in their child's learning
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children.

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing with their parents/carers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework / reading
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences

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- linking homework / reading and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
 - ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework / reading.

Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Westgarth Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework / reading differently. If your child is not reading on a regular basis, please speak to their teacher.

Review Cycle

This policy was last updated on September 2020 and is scheduled for review in 4 years.

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