
Westgarth Primary School is a community of students, staff, friends and family working together to create a diverse, engaging and respectful learning environment.

Homework Guidelines

The Homework Guidelines and Policy have been developed by the school (following DEECD Guidelines). This framework is intended to assist students, parents and teachers about the homework expectations of Westgarth Primary School.

Students will not be expected to do homework every night other than 10-15 minutes of daily reading with support in Prep to Grade 4 or independently in Grades 5/6.

When homework is assigned, no more than 30 minutes in Grades 3/4 or 45 minutes in Grades 5/6 should be dedicated to homework per night. If a child is unable to complete work in this timeframe, parents should consult their child's classroom teacher.

Homework should be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.
- balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities [be completed as independently as possible.]

Types of homework

Types of homework that meet these requirements include:

Practice exercises — providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics
- practising spelling words
- practising words or phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English
- reading for pleasure [and reading to practice the 'mechanics' and fluency of reading]
- writing essays and other creative tasks
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising physical education skills.

Preparatory homework — providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:

- reading background material for inquiries, issues, etc

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next Review:	Page:
Oct 2011	School Council	Oct 2014	1 of 3

-
- reading English texts for class discussion
 - researching topics for class work
 - collecting newspaper articles
 - revising information about a current topic.
 - preparing for weekly class news

Extension assignments — encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:

- writing a book review
- making or designing an art work
- completing Science Investigation exercises
- researching local news
- finding material on the Internet
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

Expectations

Parents and carers

Parents and carers can help students by:

- encouraging a regular daily session to examine and complete homework
- discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with homework
- helping to balance the time spent between homework and recreational activities
- asking how homework and class work is progressing and acknowledging success
- attending the school events , productions or displays their child is involved in
- talking to teachers about any homework problems
- checking if homework has been set
- ensuring upper primary and secondary students keep a homework diary
- reading texts set by teachers.
- discussing their child's responses to set tasks and asking to see their completed work
- 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
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language

Teachers

- Teachers can help their students by:
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next Review:	Page:
Oct 2011	School Council	Oct 2014	2 of 3

-
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support;
 - making effective use of homework diaries for upper primary students;
 - helping students develop the organisational and time-management skills
 - ensuring that parents and caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy, and
 - developing strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework.

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next Review:	Page:
Oct 2011	School Council	Oct 2014	3 of 3