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

Rationale

Homework provides opportunities for parents and carers to be partners in their child's education. It may also provide opportunities to foster curiosity, allow for practice, consolidation and extension of work undertaken in class, and develop organisation and time management. It also affords the extra time students need to comprehend some subject matter.

In this policy, "home reading" refers to reading practice and underpins all homework based activities. From Prep to Year 4, children are given levelled reading material appropriate to their reading stage. Years 5 and 6 see the development of more independence in reading but it is encouraged that consistent reading continues to take place. This includes regular opportunities of reading out loud right through to Year 6. The focus for daily reading practice is to: develop sight vocabulary; build reading fluency, practise comprehension strategies for enhancing meaning; develop oral presentation skills and entrench a skill that will inform much of a child's learning. Regular reading, for all students, will assist the development and consolidation of the skills involved in reading.

Aims

- To provide guidance to parents about homework tasks and appropriate amount of time to spend on homework tasks.
- To support and extend classroom learning.
- To develop positive study habits, including organisational & time management skills.
- To develop a responsibility for self-learning.

Actions

- Parents will be informed about the homework practices for their child's year level at the parent information sessions at the start of each school year.
- Teachers will support students to select appropriate books for home reading.
- Teachers will explicitly teach number fact strategies in class for students to practice at home.
- School will provide optional fortnightly independent learning tasks in English and mathematics via the school newsletter and website. This can be completed at parental/carer discretion and is not required to be handed in for correction. Additional homework, with the exception of students with specific learning needs, will not be provided by the school.
- Measuring homework by the time spent doing it is an imprecise and inadequate measure that does not take into account the quality of the work or the ability of the student, however an approximate guide could be:

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Daily home reading

- 15 minutes for students in Prep – 2
- 20 minutes for students in years 3 – 6

Daily practice number facts

- 5 minutes for students in years 1 – 6

Other tasks to a maximum of 40 minutes per week for students in years 5 – 6

- Homework will consist of:

Prep

- practise reading to, with and by parents
- gathering of additional information or materials as required.

Year 1 – 2

- practise reading to, with and by parents
- practise basic addition and subtraction number facts to build automaticity
- gathering of additional information or materials as required.

Years 3 - 4

- practise reading to with, and by parents and independent reading
- practise basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division number facts to build automaticity
- gathering of additional information or materials as required.

Years 5 - 6

- practise reading to with, and by parents and independent reading
- practise basic multiplication and division number facts to build automaticity
- undertake research to support classroom work, projects and assignments
- it is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework task.

- Students with specific learning difficulty will have a targeted homework program designed to meet the child's specific needs. This may be designed with the support of or through the recommendations made by allied health professionals.

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle.

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