



Homework Policy

RATIONALE

Yarraville West Primary School includes homework as part of its standard curriculum, according to DET guidelines. Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and assisting students to become responsible for their own learning over time. It is an opportunity for parents, guardians and families to share in their child's education. YWPS sets homework that supports educational requirements and recognises that homework should be balanced with children's after school activities and family commitments. At YWPS we acknowledge that parents determine how diligently their children complete the set homework.

GOALS

To:

- provide opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills;
- provide opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, if appropriate;
- encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively;
- encourage the school to work with families to develop good age-appropriate homework patterns that are respectful of family commitments

GENERAL GUIDELINES

At a Prep level, homework:

- will consist mainly of **daily reading** to, with, and by parents/carers or older siblings (10-15 mins)
- can include Mathletics (optional)
- should become routine and should be enjoyable and short in duration

At Grades 1 and 2, homework:

- will mainly consist of **daily reading** to, with, and by parents/carers or older siblings (approx 15 mins)
- can include Mathletics (optional)
- may include the completion of one Inquiry based project per term

At Grades 3 and 4, homework:

- will mainly consist of **daily reading** to, with, and by parents/carers (approx 20mins)
- can include Mathletics
- may include the completion of Inquiry based projects and assignments or gathering of extra information or materials
- will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day (including reading), or be set during holidays

At Grades 5 and 6, homework:

- should include **daily independent reading** (approx 30mins)
- can include Mathletics
- may extend class work, as revision and reinforcement of skills
- may include the completion of Inquiry based projects and assignments or gathering of extra information or materials
- will generally not exceed 45 minutes a day (including reading), or be set during holidays

IMPLEMENTATION

Students will be expected to:

- plan and prioritise what needs to be done throughout their week
- complete the tasks set in the required time
- take responsibility for the work done
- recognise that learning takes place both in and out of the classroom

Teachers will help students and families with homework by:

- communicating expectations around homework at the beginning of each year
- encouraging the selection of 'just right' books
- ensuring students have access to appropriately levelled Mathletics tasks
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- helping students establish a home study routine; helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
- giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- making effective use of reading diaries and homework books for students
- ensuring families are aware of the school's homework policy

Families will be encouraged to help students with their homework by:

- encouraging a regular daily time to read
- encouraging them to access Mathletics
- helping to balance the time spent between homework and recreational activities
- discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with homework
- 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 students use their reading diaries and homework books, as appropriate
- discussing their child's homework 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

Some final information:

Some parents have expressed their preference for less homework while others ask for more! Yarraville West Primary School will continue to set homework according to DET guidelines. It is then that the parent/guardian determines how diligently the set homework is completed. If set homework is not completed it will not lead to a consequence for the student. Teachers would value hearing from parents regarding individual circumstances and decisions regarding homework. Teachers should be informed if set tasks are causing angst at home. Expectations can be adapted after individual circumstances are considered. Please note that students on individual learning improvement plans or other intervention programs such as Reading Recovery, will have modified homework tasks to support their current learning. This will be in place of regular homework.

Ratified 27.11.2017

Next review – Nov, 2019