RATIONAL
Yarraville West Primary School includes homework as part of its standard curriculum, according to DEECD 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. It is an opportunity for parents, guardians and families to participate in their child’s education. YWPS sets homework that supports educational requirements and recognises that homework should be balanced with recreational, family and cultural activities.

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;
• Encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively;
• Encourage the school to work with families to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.

At Grades Prep to 4, homework:
• should not be seen as a chore;
• enables the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering of extra information or materials;
• will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings;
• will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day or be set on weekends or during vacations.

At Grades 5 and 6, homework:
• should include daily independent reading;
• may extend class work, projects and assignments, essays and research;
• will generally not exceed 45 minutes a day.

IMPLEMENTATION
Homework set by teachers will be:
• appropriate to the student’s skill level and age;
• purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum;
• interesting, challenging and when appropriate open ended.

Example of homework that may be set include:
• Practice exercises;
  – reading for pleasure
  – practising spelling words
  – practising Physical Education skills
  – writing essays and other creative tasks
  – practising and playing musical instruments
  – consolidation exercises for Mathematics
  – practising words/phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English
• Preparatory homework;
− collecting newspaper articles
− researching topics for class work
− reading background material for History
− Extension assignments;
− writing a book review
− researching local news
− finding material on the internet
− making or designing an art work

− reading English texts for class discussion
− revising information about a current topic
− monitoring advertising in a newspaper
− completing Science investigation exercises

Students will be expected to:
• plan and prioritise what needs to be done;
• 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 with their homework by:
• setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students’ learning needs;
• helping students establish a home study routine;
• 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;
• helping students develop organisational and time-management skills;
• ensuring that students have good information skills;
• 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 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 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;
• linking homework and other learning activities to the families’ culture, history and language.

YWPS will support teachers and families by:
• advising families of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and providing them with a copy of the homework policy;
• following up with families if a student regularly fails to complete homework;
• developing strategies within the school to support families becoming active partners in homework.
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 DEECD guidelines. It is then the parent/guardian that 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.