



Hawthorn West Primary School Homework Policy

Rationale

At Hawthorn West Primary School, we acknowledge that the time children spend with their families and their involvement in out of hours activities are important components of the development of the whole child. Activities such as art lessons, sports practice, cultural activities, out of school hours care, the learning of a language, tutoring, church and youth clubs, etc are all considered to be valuable learning activities that place additional demands on family time.

Homework can support student learning, however it should never be too onerous or stressful. Children need time to be children. The help and support of parents is important to a student's enjoyment and completion of homework.

Homework can assist in:

- developing time management and organisational skills
- consolidating new concepts learnt in class
- connecting those new concepts to life outside of school
- keeping parents in touch with the kinds of work their children are doing at school
- providing a link between parents, students and teachers

Program Objectives

- To outline the recommended length of time per night that should be allocated to homework for each year level
- To provide clarity on the types of tasks that will be set for homework
- To outline the process if students don't understand how to complete parts of the homework
- To provide clarity on how teachers will monitor and provide feedback on homework
- To provide information for parents as to how they can support their child with homework

Implementation:

1. Homework is to reflect what is happening in the class and build on students' learning and should be:
 - appropriate to the student's skill level and age;
 - purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum being studied at that time in the child's class;

- interesting, challenging and when appropriate open ended;
 - monitored by teachers with feedback and support provided;
 - balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.
2. School to advise parents and students of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the homework policy.
 3. Teachers will unpack and explain homework tasks to students before it is sent home. This will provide students with the opportunity to receive clarity on homework tasks they don't understand how to complete.
 4. Teachers are to monitor and provide feedback of homework, including online homework such Mathletics. Teachers are to follow up with parents if a student regularly fails to complete homework.
 5. While parents are encouraged to take an interest in their child's homework and support them when necessary, it is important not to complete the homework for them. Parents can support their child with homework by:
 - Encouraging students to take homework seriously
 - Setting the appropriate scene at home and acknowledging that a set time is dedicated to homework
 - Providing a 'study' place that is quiet, pleasant and comfortable with good lighting and ventilation
 - Helping your child to acquire any resources they may need for any independent research by taking them to visit local libraries, etc
 - Knowing your child's deadlines so you can encourage them to meet these
 - Providing your child's teacher with prompt feedback if your child is experiencing any difficulties
 - Acknowledging your child's successes with homework
 - Following up with your child on the teacher feedback they received on previous homework
 6. Guidelines for recommended length of time per night that students should be allocating to homework and the types of tasks they will be expected to complete are as follows:

Grade	Homework guidelines *
Foundation – Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings - Generally will not exceed 30 minutes a day and will not be set on weekends or during vacations
Grade 5 – Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To include daily independent reading - Will generally range from 30 to 45 minutes a day

* modifications to homework maybe necessary for some students

Definitions:

Homework is any work or task set by a class or subject teacher that is to be completed by the student outside of prescribed school hours

Prescribed school hours refers to school days between the hours of 8.45am to 3.30pm

Evaluation

This policy was endorsed by the Hawthorn West Primary School Council in February 2016 and is subject to review every 3 years.