

HOMEWORK POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Newport Lakes Primary School's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting homework.

POLICY

Newport Lakes PS acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers at Newport Lakes PS are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise of reading, practise exercises or extension assignments, etc.

Homework enables parents to become involved in their child's learning and makes them aware of the curriculum being taught at school.

Homework provides the opportunity for students to:

- develop skills and knowledge
- develop regular study habits
- take responsibility for their learning
- work independently in a self-motivated way
- reinforce current classroom work
- be extended and challenged
- prepare for secondary school life in which homework is an integral part.

Homework is the shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Newport Lakes PS will support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum
- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and providing access to the homework policy via school website
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment



Teachers at Newport Lakes PS will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage with their children's learning.

Teaching teams at Newport Lakes PS will ensure that expectations for homework are agreed upon and consistent from class to class. Each teaching team is to agree on how it will give feedback to students for homework - making feedback consistent from class to class and acknowledging those students who complete their homework. Feedback will be given in a range of ways: written, verbal, peer assessment, or marked against a rubric.

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing with their parents/carers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- attending school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- 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, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

When appropriate, parents may set additional homework through educational links on the Education Channel website www.education.vic.gov.au/primary (FUSE), appropriate online resources and iPad apps, as well as published texts available from commercial booksellers. In 2018 the Department of



Education and Training published a guide for families to help support their child's learning outside of school. Please find this via the link [here](#).

Year Level Recommendations

In the early years the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare students for the upper grades.

In the upper year levels the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.

Prep

Homework is intended to provide an opportunity to share what is happening in the classroom with parents. It will include take home books to be read every night and may include other small tasks related to the Victorian Curriculum.

Years One & Two

Homework is set with an emphasis on English. Other homework may be set from the Victorian Curriculum. Texts/take home books should be read each week night from Monday to Thursday for up to 15 minutes.

Years Three & Four

Homework is set with an emphasis on English and Mathematics. Other homework may be set from the Victorian Curriculum. Texts should be read each week night from Monday to Thursday. Homework tasks and reading may take up to 30 minutes per day.

Years Five & Six

Homework will be set fortnightly with an emphasis on English and Mathematics. Projects may be set across a range of the learning areas in Victorian Curriculum. Set homework may take up to 30 to 45 minutes per day. The reading component can be from set texts, research materials or own choice materials.

Teachers at Newport Lakes Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for them, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to your child's teacher or year level co-ordinator.

EVALUATION

Evaluation of the homework policy will be based upon the following:

- students' improved skills and knowledge in specific curriculum areas
- students' development of positive study habits
- completion of homework by due date
- quality and presentation of homework
- students' increasing acceptance of responsibility for their own learning
- students' demonstrated ability to utilise community resources for research
- feedback from parents.



REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in October 2019 and is scheduled for review on October 2021.

