



Willow Grove Primary School

HOMEWORK POLICY

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Willow Grove 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:

Willow Grove Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students. We also acknowledge that homework is a valuable part of schooling and allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. We also acknowledge that homework is most effective when it is fun, enjoyable and engaging. It establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their life. It enables students to independently apply their learning outside the school environment.

The school also recognises that children need time after school to relax, play, be with family and friends, pursue hobbies and interests, go on outings and learn to organise their own free time.

It is therefore the School's policy that all students should engage in homework practice and the following guidelines are laid out so that parents, teachers and students can adopt a format which is most applicable to their current needs. The amount of time required for homework should not impinge on recreation and social activities.

Prep to Year 4

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 them for the upper grades.

At Willow Grove Primary School, Homework in Prep to Year 4 will consist of daily reading to, with or by parents/carer or older siblings for a minimum of 20 minutes per night. This daily reading should be accompanied by conversations with children around the texts that they have read and be recorded in the reading diary.

In addition to the minimum of 20 minutes reading, students will be provided with specific words (a minimum of 5) that they are encouraged to practise each night. It is the goal for students to read, write, understand the meaning of and spell these words. This approach will help students to practise, extend and consolidate the word work done in class. Teachers will provide specific and detailed information of what this will look like each year.

Year 3 to Year 4

At the discretion of the classroom teacher, there may be additional weekly homework tasks given to students that may include extension assignments, class work, essays and research. This additional homework task will occur on a weekly cycle.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 30 minutes per week on these additional homework tasks. No homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends (allocated Friday and to be returned Monday) or during the school holiday period.

Year 5 to Year 6

In Grades 5 and 6, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.

Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading with a minimum time of 20 minutes. This daily reading should be accompanied by conversations with children around the texts that they have read and be recorded in the reading diary.

There will be additional weekly homework tasks given to students that may include extension assignments, class work, essays and research. This additional homework task will occur on a weekly cycle.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per week on these additional homework tasks. No homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends (allocated Friday and to be returned Monday) or during the school holiday period.

Shared expectations and responsibilities

Homework is a 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.

Willow Grove Primary School will support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools
- 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 them with a copy of the homework policy
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- provide a reading diary and take home reading materials across the school. This will be consistent from Prep – 4 and in Grade 5/6
- provide families with feedback on how they are meeting their obligations under the Homework Policy through our Grade Point Average system (GPA). This is to be rolled out in 2019 through Compass Progress Reports.
- ensuring that upper primary students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

Teachers at Willow Grove Primary School 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, by using a weekly cycle and keeping this consistent across a term or year. E.g. Setting additional homework tasks on a weekly cycle (Monday to Monday for example)
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- record students daily reading nights using a consistent practices across the school and acknowledge student achievement through reading certificates and or our Grade Point Average system (GPA). This is to be rolled out in 2019 through Compass Progress Reports.
- help students develop organisational and time management skills
- follow up with students when they are absent from school so that they can catch up on their learning
- 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 in their children's learning

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

- following up with teachers when they are absent from school to catch up on any learning they may have missed
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

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

- recording and or signing daily reading in their child's reading diary and having regular and ongoing conversations about the texts their child/ren are reading
- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- discuss feedback from teacher with their child in regards to homework
- reflecting on their child's achievement with daily reading (homework) when Compass Progress Reports are published (to be rolled out in 2019)
- 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
- encouraging their child to catch up on any learning missed as a result of an unavoidable absence
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- ensuring upper primary students keep a homework diary
- 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.

Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Willow Grove 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, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to your child's teacher.

In addition, we encourage students and families to make contact with teachers if additional homework is required. Additional homework can be provide to students at the student or families' request. Mathletics and other online subscriptions are a great source of additional homework for students that is targeted at their point of need.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - [Homework Guidelines](#)
 - [Homework Expectations](#)

REVIEW CYCLE:

This policy was last updated on August 2018 and is scheduled for review on August 2022.