



WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMework POLICY

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Willow Grove Primary School's policy requirements relating to homework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Willow Grove Primary School.

RATIONALE

Willow Grove Primary School has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the school council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- providing opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge
- providing opportunities for students to prepare for future lessons
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

We acknowledge that homework is most effective when it is fun, enjoyable, meaningful and engaging. 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.

DEFINITIONS

Homework is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

POLICY

At Willow Grove Primary School, we believe 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 unduly impinge on recreation and social activities.

At Willow Grove Primary School all homework set by teachers will be:

- purposeful
- curriculum-aligned
- appropriate to students' skill level and age
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- monitored by the teacher
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

The homework set by teachers at Willow Grove Primary School may include the following:

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 year level specific words 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.

At the discretion of the classroom teacher, Students in Year 2 who are requiring maths extension may be given a Maths Mate to complete on a weekly basis.

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 Maths Mates, 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 Maths Mates, 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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Willow Grove Primary School** are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Willow Grove Primary School** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age.
- ensure homework tasks are varied and purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning (so, they are not 'busy work' or where students 'finish off' work they did/could not complete in class).
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination.
- provide take home reading materials to all students.
- give students enough time to complete homework e.g., by using a weekly cycle.
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback.
- record student daily reading nights and acknowledge student achievement with reading certificates and/or our Grade Point Average (GPA) system via Compass.
- follow up with students when they are absent from school so they can catch up on their learning.
- ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours.
- encourage the development of organisational and time management skills.
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy.
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers.

- 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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- ensure their child is provided with the appropriate reading diary as listed on school booklist or equivalent.
- recording and or signing daily reading in their child's reading diary and having regular and ongoing conversations about the texts their child is reading.
- developing a positive and productive approach to homework.
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities.
- encouraging their child to catch up on any learning missed as a result of an unavoidable absence from school.
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework.
- discuss homework feedback from their child's teacher with their child.
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking homework to:
 - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had
 - everyday household routines and physical activity
 - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
 - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.
- reflecting on their child's homework achievement when GPA's are published via Compass.
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENT/CARERS

Willow Grove Primary School understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/carers are concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage parents/carers to speak to their child's teacher.

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

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in August 2021 and is scheduled for review in 2024.