



HOMework POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the Whitfield District Primary School office on 03 5729 8286.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to our school community Whitfield District Primary School's homework expectations.

SCOPE

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

RATIONALE

Whitfield District 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 learning
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively
- fostering positive lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

DEFINITIONS

Homework refers to tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be completed during non-school hours.

POLICY

At Whitfield District Primary School all homework set by teachers will be:

- purposeful
- curriculum-aligned and appropriate to students' skill level and age
- adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students
- designed to help students develop as independent learners

Homework will be designed to deepen students' understanding and develop fluency and understanding in reading, writing and mathematics.

At Whitfield District Primary School homework tasks will include:

- daily reading ‘just right’ texts
- practising high frequency words and spelling words
- practising mathematics skills through games
- applying new skills to home context such as:
 - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
 - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
 - growing plants
 - reviewing their favourite film or book

Foundation to Year 2

In the early years, homework tasks will include daily reading, spelling and/or word work and mathematics games.

Reading:

Students will be encouraged to read familiar ‘just right’ books to a parent/carer for around 10 minutes. This may include reading aloud independently, or sharing reading by taking turns or listening, then repeating selections of text.

In addition, students are encouraged to develop their love of books by listening to others read or practising reading independently. At school, beginning readers have learnt the 3 ways to read – reading the pictures, reading the words and retelling the story.

Spelling/Word Work:

Students will be encouraged to build their bank of known reading and writing words by practising fluency tasks at home.

Mathematics Games:

Each week/fortnight, students will learn a new number fluency game in class. Fluency games are designed to promote numerical fluency, understanding and reasoning in an engaging way. Tasks require minimal materials and often involve dice or a pack of playing cards. Teachers will provide game masters and a brief outline of each task. Students are encouraged to teach family members how to play. This promotes active learning and reinforces their own learning.

Junior school students are not expected to complete more than 20 minutes of homework per day.

Year 3 to Year 6

In the early years, homework tasks will include daily reading, spelling and/or word work and mathematics games.

Reading:

Students will be encouraged to read familiar ‘just right’ books to a parent/carer for around 20 minutes. This may include reading independently, or sharing reading with family members.

At school, students are learning about the comprehension strategies that will help them develop a deeper understanding of fiction and nonfiction texts. These strategies include monitoring, asking

questions, predicting, determining importance, activating and connecting, summarising and synthesising, visualising and inferring.

Reflection task: Students will be asked to complete a reading reflection

Spelling/Word Work:

Students will be encouraged to build their bank of known reading and writing words by practising fluency tasks at home.

Mathematics Games:

Each week/fortnight, students will learn a new number fluency game in class. Fluency games are designed to promote numerical fluency, understanding and reasoning in an engaging way. Tasks require minimal materials and often involve dice or a pack of playing cards. Teachers will provide game masters and a brief outline of each task. Students are encouraged to teach family members how to play. This promotes active learning and reinforces their own learning.

Senior school students are not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day.

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 Whitfield District 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 Whitfield District Primary School** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful
- review homework and provide timely and practical feedback
- ensure the amount of homework allocated supports students to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are to:

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

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

- ensure there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talk to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework

- discuss homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in conversation, linking homework to:
 - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had
 - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
 - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.
- ensuring there is a quiet, comfortable area for their child to complete homework.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Teachers at Whitfield District Primary School understand that students have different learning strengths 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 classroom teacher/s.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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| Policy last reviewed | February 2024 |
| Approved by | Principal |
| Next scheduled review date | January 2027 |