



Homework Policy

RATIONALE

Homework benefits students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. The link between home and school is a vital component for each child's success at school. Homework provides a valuable link between learning at school and learning at home. Parents, in partnership with the school, can encourage their children to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.

GUIDELINES

The Westbreen P.S. Homework Policy is consistent with the expectations as outlined in the DET Homework Guidelines.

Homework is to reflect what is happening in 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 where appropriate open ended
- Focused on concepts already covered in classrooms

AIMS

To develop independent work and study habits

To develop a responsibility for self-learning

To develop a positive attitude towards study skills

To develop students' organisational and time-management skills

To encourage parents to be actively involved in supporting and encouraging their children's learning

IMPLEMENTATION

- Classroom teachers will regularly set homework and discuss tasks with students (to allow for clarifying words, questions and provide examples where needed).
- Each Professional Learning Team will communicate expectations to parents by including a homework outline in the Team Newsletter sent home at the beginning of the year.

- The quantity of homework given and the time spent will vary depending on year level and individual differences in children’s needs and abilities.
- Specialist teachers will liaise with classroom teachers when setting homework so that the homework fits within the set guidelines in regard to time commitment. (see below)
- Generally, homework will be issued each Monday. It is to be completed and returned by Friday.
- It is expected that children will spend no more than the times specified below on directed homework tasks:

Grades 3 - 6	Will not exceed 30 minutes/day or 120 minutes in any one week
Foundation – 2	Will not exceed 20 minutes/day or 80 minutes in any one week
Homework will not be set on weekends or during school holidays.	

- Tasks may include:
 - Daily Home Reading (at Foundation level this may include parents reading to their children)
 - Learning to read high frequency sight words
 - Learning weekly spelling words
 - Mathematics worksheets that consolidate work covered in class
 - Learning number facts
 - Research projects
- Homework tasks should not require internet access to complete.
- Homework is the child’s responsibility, but parental support is encouraged.
- Parents are encouraged to make an appointment to speak to the child’s teacher if situations arise such as:
 - If the homework is not able to be finished or is causing stress or anxiety in the child
 - If they don’t know how to help and would like further support
 - If they have any concerns about the content or amount of homework
 - If the homework is consistently taking longer than the guidelines
- Teachers will provide timely and practical feedback to support their students.
- Students who do not complete set homework tasks will not be punished e.g. not kept in.
- Students will not be kept inside during recess to complete unfinished homework.
- Teachers will contact parents if they have any issues regarding homework tasks.
- Students who are absent from school on extended holidays will not be given set homework activities by their teacher. They will be encouraged to undertake activities such as: write a diary of their experiences, practise number facts, practise wordlists etc.

Review Cycle and Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle

Ratified by School Council: November 2018

Next review: November 2021