



HOMework

POLICY

WOADY YALOAK PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Homework is seen as an integral part of a child's education and is an important link between home and school.

Purpose:

1. To further instil good time management and responsible work habits in children.
2. Homework is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.
3. To reinforce skills taught and practised at school.
4. To provide an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Guidelines:

Reading is a key element in the Homework Program and it is expected that all children will record daily reading in a designated diary.

Junior Unit - homework should not be seen as a chore. Homework will:

- enable the extension of class work by practising skills (eg. Spelling and number facts) or gathering extra information or materials
- mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings.

This will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day.

Middle Unit - homework should not be seen as a chore. Homework will:

- enable the extension of class work by practising skills (eg. Spelling, tables and number facts) or gathering extra information or materials
- mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings.
- may include extension of class work, such as projects, assignments and research.

This will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day.

Senior Unit - homework should not be seen as a chore. Homework will:

- should include daily independent reading
- should be coordinated across teachers to avoid unreasonable workloads for students
- may include extension of class work, such as projects, assignments and research.

This will generally not exceed 45 minutes a day at Years 5 & 6.

Homework expectations will be outlined to parents at the commencement of the year through, e.g. Class Information Sessions, Term Planners, Newsletters, etc. Parent support for the implementation of the Homework Program will be sought.

Student reports now include some information, suggestions and guidelines as to how parents can assist their child/children at home.

Implementation

Homework should:

- be appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- be interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open ended
- be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

Types of homework that meet these requirements include:

Practice exercises — providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics – memorisation of tables
- practising spelling words
- practising words or phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English
- reading for pleasure
- writing tasks
- enjoyment of musical and physical activities.

Preparatory homework — providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:

- reading texts for class discussion
- researching topics for class work
- collecting newspaper articles
- revising information about a current topic.

Extension assignments — encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:

- writing a book review
- making or designing an art work
- completing Science investigation exercises
- researching local news
- finding material on the Internet
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

Children will be provided with reading material on a regular basis.

It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.

Occasional project work may be given in lieu of other homework tasks.

Consequences may be given for incomplete homework.

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation;
- encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework;
- setting an example by reading themselves;
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with homework;
- helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources. Usually it is better to encourage children to complete homework themselves;
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities;
- checking whether homework for upper primary and secondary students has been set and ensuring they keep a homework diary;

Evaluation:

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in...

July 2014