



HOMEWORK

POLICY



Rationale:

Victorian Government research¹ does not support the concept that homework in primary schools significantly improves academic performance of students. However, homework may assist students to develop good habits that facilitate learning beyond the Primary School years. It can also facilitate parental involvement with their children's learning which can benefit a student's performance. Wandin Yallock PS believes that students should be engaged in after school activities that consolidate their in class learning and help them apply their learning to real life scenarios that help prepare them for independent adult life.

Aims:

By providing homework to students at Wandin Yallock PS, we aim to:

- Foster in students a love of learning
- Help students develop independent work habits and time management skills
- Develop life skills by participating in real life learning activities at home
- complement the learning done at school

Implementation:

- It is an expectation that homework provided by the school will be completed by students in a timely manner, usually a week.
- Teachers will provide homework that is relevant to the students' level of ability.
- Staff at Wandin Yallock PS encourage students to be involved in regular household activities such as cooking the family meal, preparing lunches, chores around the house, shopping where their literacy and numeracy skills can be implemented in a real life situation.
- Staff at Wandin Yallock PS also encourage students and their families to participate in activities that promote family interaction such as board or card games, gardening or exercise etc.
- Homework should not interfere with valuable afterschool activities such as music lessons, interest clubs, sporting activities and outdoor play.
- The minimum expectation for homework at Wandin Yallock PS is that all students from Foundation to Level 6 are engaged in reading for at least 15-20 minutes, at least 5 times a week. This could include: independent reading, reading to a parent/adult or listening to a parent/adult read to them. Student reading should be recorded in either a reading log or student diary and signed by a parent and checked by the teacher.
- In addition to reading, homework should include:
 - F-6 revision of number facts (such as times tables, counting patterns, pairs to 10 etc), dependent on student ability and level.
 - 2-6: approximately 10-20 spelling words per week based on class spelling focus and/or individual lists

- 3-6: any unfinished work that students could have reasonably finished in class time but did not.
- F-6: occasional activities that support students to complete their in class Inquiry units –i.e gathering information
- F-2: revision of sight words as necessary (M100W) – reading and spelling
- 3-6: the reading of the class Book Club texts is to be completed at school and at home as part of the homework daily reading expectations
- In catering for individual student need, teacher discretion in assigning variations to the above homework guidelines is permitted in consultation with the principal and/or parents.
- Students who consistently do not complete set homework will be required to complete the work at lunch time once a week.
- Completion of homework is a child's responsibility. Parents should not 'do' a child's homework for them.
- Homework activities should be a positive experience.
- Positive recognition by teachers of homework completed is to be favoured over punitive approaches for non completion of homework.
- Parents are encouraged to provide a quiet, distraction free space and time for a child to complete their homework and are encouraged to make it a positive experience by playing games (snap, memory etc) with the child to help them learn spelling/sight words or number facts.

Evaluation:

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

¹ *Inquiry into the approaches to homework in Victorian school.* Parliament of Victoria: Education & Training Committee.

http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/etc/Homework_Inquiry/Homework_Inquiry_final_report.pdf

This policy was last ratified by Wandin Yallock Primary School Council in **AUGUST 2017**