

# WALKERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Homework Policy

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At Walkerville Primary School, we acknowledge that the time children spend with their families and their involvement in out of hours activities are important components of the development of the whole child. Activities such as art lessons, sports and music practices, cultural activities and performances, out of school hours care, the learning of a language, tutoring, youth and childrens' clubs etc. are all considered to be valuable learning activities that place additional demands on family time.

We believe all children should be physically active after school (*National Physical Activity Guidelines: 1 hour of moderate to vigorous physical activity per child per day*). This may include sport team practice, playing, walking the dog and playground games.

The following table is a guideline as to how much and how often homework may be set. We actively encourage students in all year levels to spend at least some time each evening reading.

R-2	Year 3/4/5	Year 6	Year 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be encouraged to read every night.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practise any words sent home by the class teacher (up to 20 minutes 4 days per week).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be encouraged to read every night.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 20 minutes of homework tasks may be set 4 nights per week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be encouraged to read every night.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 30 minutes of homework tasks may be set 4 nights per week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be encouraged to read every night.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 40 minutes of homework tasks may be set 4 nights per week.</li> </ul>

### Homework may consist of:

- reading
- completing tasks that were not completed in class time
- 'practice' tasks which will give students a chance to consolidate newly learned concepts
- set tasks or 'longer-term' tasks, which will have negotiated time frames
- a home or community based activity.

Homework can support student learning. It should never be too onerous or stressful. It can provide an opportunity for students to take responsibility for their own learning and can help to establish routines and sound study habits.

Students are only ever expected to do what parents consider is a reasonable effort within a designated time frame. Sometimes this may mean a child is not able to completely finish a task. This is fine as long as the parent deems an appropriate effort has been expended.

Likewise some students greatly enjoy homework. They choose to spend far more time and effort than is asked of them. Such enthusiasm is acknowledged, but not encouraged. Children need time to be children.

### **How parents can help**

The help and support of parents is important to a student's enjoyment and completion of homework. Parents can help by:

- encouraging students to take homework seriously
- setting the scene at home and acknowledging that a set time is dedicated to homework
- providing a 'study' place that is quiet, pleasant and comfortable, with good lighting and ventilation
- helping your child to acquire any resources they may need for any independent research, by taking them to visit local libraries, etc.
- knowing your child's deadlines so you can encourage them to meet these
- providing your child's teacher with prompt feedback if your child is experiencing any difficulties.

While parents are encouraged to take an interest in their child's homework and support them when necessary, it is important not to complete the homework for them.

### **Roles**

#### **Students will:**

- ensure they know what homework is required of them each evening and complete their tasks
- let their teacher know if they don't understand the set task
- record their homework task in their diary or communication book
- meet the timeline for the task
- negotiate with their teacher any adjustments to set deadlines.

#### **Teachers will:**

- set appropriate homework for students
- communicate the expectations of the task so students have a clear understanding
- monitor that homework is completed appropriately and on time
- provide feedback to the student
- contact parents as soon as possible when homework is not being completed.

Children learn best when parents and teachers work collaboratively to provide the best possible learning opportunities and outcomes for their students.

### **Policy review**

The Governing Council and staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the *Homework* policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.

*June 2018*