



Carlton North Primary School

HOMWORK POLICY

Rationale

We at Carlton North Primary believe that, at primary level, homework should reinforce skills and habits of learning and encourage students to be responsible for their own learning.

Aims

Implementation of this policy will allow students, teachers and parents to participate in a homework program that will provide opportunities for students to regularly reinforce classroom learning, develop study habits, organizational and time-management skills and take increasing levels of responsibility for their own learning.

Implementation

General Guidelines

- This policy will be provided to parents at the beginning of each year.
- Homework will not be expected on weekends or during holidays.
- No homework task will contribute directly to a student's grade on their report.
- There will be no direct consequences for non-completion of homework.
- Parent signature on uncompleted homework is sufficient explanation for non-completion. However, teachers will discuss with parents if homework, particularly reading, is not being done regularly. If there are concerns regarding a student's completion of homework, a statement may be made in the school report to indicate this.
- Students on Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) or in the Reading Recovery program may have individualized homework.
- Homework will be set on a regular basis.
- In the end of semester written reports and three-way conferences teachers may suggest specific home activities to assist student according to individual needs.
- Teachers will review all homework in a timely manner and with sufficient feedback to ensure that students and parents are aware that homework is valued.
- Teachers will use the information gained from reviewing homework to contribute to the teacher's knowledge of student progress and help to inform the teacher's practice in the classroom.

Parents are asked:

- to ensure that time is set aside for daily reading
- to ensure that time is set aside each week for other homework tasks
- to provide other practical supports and encouragement as needed
- to encourage independence and increasing levels of responsibility for homework tasks
- to adapt the homework level to their family's particular circumstances, philosophy, commitments, resources and student ability and motivation
- to discuss with the teacher if they find that homework is placing excessive stress and strain on family life.
- Parents who believe their child needs further individualized homework are invited to discuss this with the teacher. Teachers will discuss with parents suitable activities that may benefit the student.

Students are expected:

- to complete homework regularly
 - to take increasing responsibility for the completion of homework tasks

Unit Guidelines

Prep

Level of parent involvement expected: high

Average time requirement: 10-15 min per week day

- Daily reading, by, with or to your child
- Activities to consolidate students' literacy and numeracy skills

Grade 1 and 2

Level of parent involvement expected: high to moderate

Average time requirement: 15-20 min per week day

- Daily reading by, with or to your child
- Activities to consolidate students' literacy and numeracy skills

Grade 3 and 4

Level of parent involvement expected: moderate

Average time requirement: 20-30 min per week day

- Daily reading by, with or to your child (at least 20 min)
- Activities that are directly related to the current class program and which aim to reinforce and consolidate the students' knowledge and skills. Students may be asked to collect information for subsequent use in class. This may require students to have access to a library or the internet.

Grade 5 and 6

Level of parent involvement expected: low

Average time requirement: 20-35 min per week day

- Daily sustained silent reading (at least 20 min)
- Activities that are directly related to the current class program and which aim to reinforce and consolidate the students' knowledge and skills. These tasks may require students to have access to a library or the internet.
- Not more than twice a term, assignments aimed at encouraging students to develop the skills needed to complete tasks that need a longer time frame. These tasks may require students to have access to a library or the internet.

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed after three years implementation.

The following will be considered when evaluating this policy:

- Students', teachers' and parents' perspective on homework practice;
- The most recent parent opinion survey and student opinion survey; and
- Student achievement data from the most recent school level report

This policy was ratified by School Council in September 2011.

Reference: DEECD Homework guidelines and expectations:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/expectations.aspx>