



OAK PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Oak Park Primary School's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting homework.

POLICY

Oak Park Primary School acknowledges that any homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students. We recognise that many students are involved in a wide range of out of hours activities, e.g. swimming, sport, dancing, music lessons. We see these learning experiences as very valuable for the overall development of the child and encourage children to pursue children's interests and talents in these areas.

We acknowledge that Homework can have several important uses:

- It gives parents an insight into what their children are learning at school;
- It can help improve the connectivity between child/ parent/school;
- It may encourage positive study habits;
- It can support other learning;
- It can help to develop 'real life' skills;

Teachers at Oak Park Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. If Homework is set, it should:

- support the development of the student's independence as a learner;
- further the partnership between school and home and be seen as an opportunity for the home and school to work cooperatively to support the child's learning;
- be able to be completed independently by the student without significant levels of parental assistance or resources;
- be able to be completed in a reasonable time frame and without impacting unduly on time for family, recreational, cultural and employment pursuits relevant to the student's age, development and educational aspirations; and
- be clearly explained with sufficient written instructions.

Robert Marzano outlines the following as purposeful ways to assign homework:

Strategy	Description
Homework preview	The teacher asks students to read a passage of text or view media that introduces a concept or idea they will study in class.
Homework to deepen knowledge	The teacher asks students to complete an assignment that helps them compare, contrast, or classify specific aspects of the content.
Homework to practice a process or skill	The teacher asks students who have demonstrated the ability to independently perform a process or skill in class to practice that process or skill independently to increase their fluency, speed, and accuracy with the process or skill.
Parent-assessed homework	The teacher provides specific directions to parents regarding homework. To assist students with homework, parents or family members ask reflective questions or listen to students give an oral summary of material they read. To help students develop fluency with skills or procedures, parents might also time them in executing a specific skill or process.

Source: Adapted from Marzano Research, 2016ff.

Reading

This is the single most important academic task that your child can do.

Daily reading is an excellent opportunity for your child to increase their reading ability, spelling knowledge, comprehension and general knowledge. You are strongly encouraged to support your child with their reading. You can do this by providing them with interesting reading material and also modelling reading for pleasure and reading for work.

Foundation to Grade 4

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.

Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.

Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings as well as revision of basic maths skills; counting, tables, number facts (especially addition and subtraction).

No homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

Year 5 to Year 6

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.

Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading and may include extension assignments, class work, essays and research. Practise of mathematics skills and concepts is also encouraged.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 30 minutes per day on homework and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

Shared expectations and responsibilities

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Oak Park Primary School will support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools
- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and providing them with a copy of the homework policy
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- ensuring that upper primary students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

Teachers at Oak Park Primary School will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage with their children's work.

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy

- discussing with their parents/carers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- ensuring upper primary students keep a homework diary
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Oak Park Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to your child's teacher or the Assistant Principal.

APPROPRIATE TASKS AND TIME ALLOCATIONS

The following are examples of appropriate homework activities and time allocations for students from various year levels throughout the school. They indicate the tasks that will be set for students to complete for homework that are appropriate for their level of development.

The suggested time allocations are based on the assumption that this is the time students spend engaged in completing homework. This time does not include time children spend setting up to ready themselves to complete homework. It is also acknowledged that some children will take longer than others to complete homework tasks. These times should be viewed only as a guide.

Year Level	Appropriate Homework Tasks	Suggested Maximum Time
Foundation	<p>There will be no formal work set at the Foundation level. Your child's progress will be assisted by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• reading daily• counting things whenever an interesting opportunity allows• allowing your child to help with cooking• playing suggested games using alphabet/number cards provided by the teacher• taking an interest in the things your child brings home and talks about from school• having stationery available for his/her use – pencils, textas, scissors, paper, glue, etc.• encouraging running, climbing, balancing, ball play (throwing, catching, kicking, batting), getting dirty (sand, mud, paint, etc.) <p>For these to be useful, the child's interest must be engaged. If not, try again another time.</p>	No set time

Year Level	Appropriate Homework Tasks	Suggested Maximum Time
Years 1/2	<p>Homework in these early years should be limited to short tasks. These should form the basis of a positive opportunity for parents and children to enjoy learning together.</p> <p>Homework tasks in this area will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nightly oral reading, reading for pleasure, adults reading to children • spelling and word recognition practice • establishing routines e.g. bringing library bag on correct day, remembering reading book, swimming gear, pencils each day etc. • finding pictures in magazines to support class work • discussing activities with parents: e.g. bedtime, lunch, etc. • practice and reinforcement of basic number facts and the four processes • discuss with your child activities and events they have been involved in at home e.g. a visit to a relative etc. • share and discuss activities completed at school • other activities may be given to consolidate or extend classroom work. 	10-15 minutes daily

Year Level	Appropriate Homework Tasks	Suggested Maximum Time
Years 3/4	<p>Homework can be the vehicle for children, parents and teachers to work together to assist the child's development.</p> <p>In the middle school, homework should provide children with practice and reinforcement opportunities and introduce them to the process of investigating and researching independently.</p> <p>Homework tasks in this area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reading for pleasure • practice to reinforce number facts, tables and the four processes • practice of mathematics concepts taught in class • introducing research and problem solving tasks writing; journal, stories, reports etc • learning spelling words • work completion e.g. finishing a story, publishing of work • reading a story written by the child to parents • development of time management skills through homework grids and contracts 	20 minutes daily

Year Level	Appropriate Homework Tasks	Suggested Maximum Time
Years 5/6	<p>Effective homework in the upper primary years includes, but goes beyond practise and reinforcement exercises as in previous years. Homework in upper primary:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seeks to strengthen independent study skills; • aims to motivate children to study by setting them interesting and challenging tasks that are related to their class work <p>The emphasis of homework for Grade 6 students is on preparing them for secondary college.</p> <p>Homework tasks may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practise and reinforcement exercises arising from class work • practise to reinforce number facts, tables and the four processes • practise of maths concepts taught in class • reading for pleasure • book reviews • writing; journal, stories, reports etc. • learning spelling words • work completion e.g. finishing a story, publishing of work • work that involves research and investigatory skills • thinking challenges • development of time management skills through homework grids and contracts 	30 minutes daily

HOMework GRID

Homework doesn't just have to be tasks set by the teacher.

There are many tasks that children can perform at home that will support their development of essential life skills. The following grid outlines examples of tasks that can be considered as relevant "homework" activities for children in their home.

<i>Play a game with an adult</i> e.g. board games, card games, active games or word and number games.	<i>Physical activity</i> e.g. run, walk, climb, explore or play a physical game or sport	<i>Art</i> e.g. use paints or craft materials to <i>create</i> a piece of art for display at home.
<i>Read</i> e.g. read for pleasure – choose a book that looks interesting and engaging.	<i>Be read to</i> e.g. share the joy a favourite book with someone special.	<i>Project research</i> e.g. use home text resources, the library or the computer to research a topic.
<i>Teach parents something you were taught</i> e.g. teach parents a game, an activity or a new skill you have learnt.	<i>Housework</i> e.g. organizing and cleaning their bedroom, organizing their own homework area, or helping with other household tasks	<i>Use computer for work</i> e.g. use word processing to publish a piece of work or to research information.
<i>Sports practice</i> e.g. practice a sport either as part of your club or for fun	<i>Shopping</i> e.g. choose the cheapest product, add up purchases, calculate the change.	<i>Cultural / Music practice</i> e.g. practice using a musical instrument or sing a favourite song.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - [Homework Guidelines](#)
 - [Homework Expectations](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on March 2018 and is scheduled for review in March 2021.