



Homework Policy

Implementation and Procedures

Context

It is the responsibility of every teacher at Nowra Hill Public School to ensure that every student achieves the Educational Goals for Young Australians as set out in the Melbourne Declaration 2008.

We provide an educational community that:

1. Promotes equity and excellence
2. Ensures our students become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

The Department of Education's Homework Policy specifies that each school is to develop a Homework Policy. A school's Homework Policy should be:

- relevant to the needs of students.
- developed in consultation with key school community stakeholders including teachers, parents/ caregivers and students.
- communicated to staff, students, parents/caregivers, particularly at the time of student enrolment.

In developing their Homework Policy, schools should be aware that while the policy itself is compulsory, the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year levels are not.

This approach to Homework Policy is in line with a number of factors:

- community expectations about homework are variable.
- research regarding the value of homework is inconclusive.
- schools are best placed to make decisions about homework in consultation with their communities.

Rationale/Research

A *Homework Policy: Research scan* was undertaken by the NSW Department of Education and Communities in 2012.

The *Homework Policy: Research scan* summarises the benefits and the drawbacks of homework, considers strategies to maximise the benefits, and examines in detail whether time spent on homework results in improved student achievement. The roles of parent involvement and socioeconomic status are also considered.



There is little consensus in the literature as to whether homework raises student achievement. Most researchers, however, conclude that for primary students, there is no evidence that homework lifts academic performance.

Any revision or development of a Homework Policy should be read in conjunction with the latest research on homework.

Nowra Hill Public School surveyed staff, parents and students in July 2017, to ascertain the value the community places on homework. The key findings were:

- Parents value reading, sight words, spelling lists and times tables as homework.
- Parents also value the idea of research based projects as homework.
- Parents want consistency across classes.
- Parents find it challenging to find the time after school for homework.
- There is a range of beliefs about the value of homework amongst teachers.
- Teachers value reading, sight words, spelling lists and times tables as homework.
- Some teachers value research based projects as homework.
- Teachers find the setting and marking of homework time consuming.
- Students don't feel that homework supports their learning.

Australian Professional Standards for Teachers

Teachers at Nowra Hill Public School are expected to be working at the Proficient or higher level of the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers*.

The Homework Policy Implementation, particularly relates to the following descriptors from the *Standards*:

1.2.2 – structure teaching programs using research and collegial advice about how students learn.

1.3.2 – Design and implement teaching strategies that are responsive to the learning strengths and needs of students from diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.

2.5.2 – Apply knowledge and understanding of effective teaching strategies to support students' literacy and numeracy achievement.

3.7.2 – Plan for appropriate and contextually relevant opportunities for parents/carers to be involved in their children's learning.

7.2.2 – Understand the implications of and comply with relevant legislative, administrative and organisational and professional requirements, policies and processes.

7.3.2 – Establish and maintain respectful collaborative relationships with parents/carers regarding their children's learning and well-being.



Homework Expectations

To develop a consistent and manageable approach to homework that balances the needs of the whole school community, teachers will:

- Positively reinforce homework completion.
- Provide effective feedback to students.
- Manage and promote the Home Reading Dairies and Reading Nights Awards.
- Follow the guidelines below for each year group when setting homework.

Kindergarten

- Home reading – 10 minutes
- Sight word practice
- Mad Minute – phonics practice

Year 1

- Home reading – 10 minutes
- Sight word practice
- Mad Minute – phonics practice
- Spelling list

Year 2

- Home reading – 15 minutes
- Sight word practice – if needed
- Mad Minute practice – if needed
- Spelling list
- Skip counting practice – by 2s, 5s and 10s

Year 3

- Home reading – 15 minutes
- Spelling list
- Times tables practice – 2x, 3x, 5x, 10x

Year 4

- Home reading – 15 minutes
- Spelling list
- Times tables practice – 4x, 6x, 7x, 8x, 9x
- iTime project



Year 5

- Home reading - extended
- Spelling list
- Times tables practice – 11x, 12x
- iTime project

Year 6

- Home reading - extended
- Spelling list
- Times tables practice – as needed
- iTime project

In addition to the set homework, every student also has access to Reading Eggs/Eggspress and Mathletics if extra revision is required.

Parents are also strongly encouraged to use the strategies provided in the PLAN *Feedback to Parents* report that is issued early in Term 1 for Kindergarten and then at the end of each semester for every other year.

References/Resources:

- NSW Department of Education, *Homework Policy*. 2017
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/homework-policy?refid=285776>
- NSW Department of Education, *Homework Policy Guidelines*. 2017
https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/Hwk_Pol_guide.pdf
- Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers*. 2017
<https://www.aitsl.edu.au/australian-professional-standards-for-teachers/standards/list>
- Evidence for Learning, *Homework Primary* 2017.
<http://evidenceforlearning.org.au/toolkit/homework-primary/>