

Newport Gardens Primary School

Homework Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Newport Gardens 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

Newport Gardens Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers at Newport Gardens Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise of reading, practice exercises or extension assignments.

Homework expectations at Newport Gardens Primary School are an opportunity for students to practice skills, apply knowledge or concepts that are part of their daily learning in the classroom.

Prep to Year 2

Suggested minimum time				Extension/Choice
10 minutes	Prep	Daily reading (recorded in log)	SMART Phonics/Spelling	Reading Eggs & Mathletics
15 minutes	Year 1	Daily reading (recorded in log)	SMART Phonics/Spelling	Reading Eggs & Mathletics
20 minutes	Year 2	Daily reading (recorded in log)	SMART Phonics/Spelling	Reading Eggs & Mathletics

* use of Reading Eggs & Mathletics are also integrated into classroom programs. Tasks or levels are assigned by classroom teachers and can be accessed as part of optional homework.

Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings.

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

Year 3 to Year 6

				Optional
Year 3	Daily reading (recorded in diary) (20 mins)	SMART Spelling		Reading Express & Mathletics
Year 4	Daily reading (recorded in diary) (20 mins)	SMART Spelling		Reading Express & Mathletics
Year 5	Daily reading (recorded in diary) (30 mins)	SMART Spelling	Extension tasks related to Units of Learning	Reading Express & Mathletics
Year 6	Daily reading (recorded in diary) (40 mins)	SMART Spelling	Extension tasks related to Units of Learning	Reading Express & Mathletics

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. 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.

Newport Gardens 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 Newport Gardens Primary School will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- set meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extra-curricular 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 in their children.

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/carer's 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 and part-time employment.

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.

Students who are supported with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) may have modified homework tasks to help their achievement of IEP goals.

Support for students, parents and carers

If students or parents need assistance in completing homework tasks, they are encouraged to make contact with their child's teacher through our school email address:

newport.gardnes.ps@education.vic.gov.au

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in March 2021 and is scheduled for review in April 2023.