

Harrisdale Primary School Homework Guidelines 2019

HOMWORK GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS

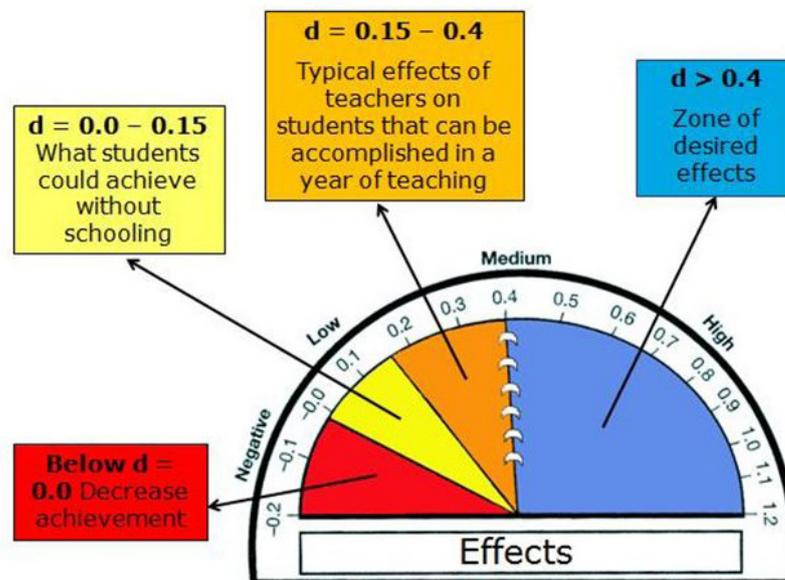
RATIONAL

The main focus of any meaningful homework should always be to support higher levels of student achievement by providing students with more opportunities and time to consolidate skills and concepts learned at school.

Homework can also further school-home relationships and can assist in keeping parents informed about the student's learning program and progress. It should be noted that preparation of students for the time commitment of homework anticipated in years to come is not, in itself, a reasonable basis for setting homework.

The research suggests that in the primary school years that homework has very little effect on student achievement. John Hattie's research indicates that homework has an effect size of 0.29 on student learning. This is well below the desired effectiveness. For this reason homework needs to be clearly focused on consolidation of skills and development of good working routines.

Barometers of Influence



Hattie, J. (2009) *Visible Learning*. Rutledge. New York

PURPOSE

Homework is:

- Used to facilitate the support of learning outcomes
- Part of a developmental learning program that is responsive to individual needs, clearly relevant and supported by classroom practice
- Disassociated from any form of punishing students or means of securing discipline
- To support the development of the student's independence as a learner
- To further the partnership between school and home
- To avoid dependence on unreasonable levels of parental assistance or resources that are not readily available to the student
- In the main it will consist of consolidation, completion of set tasks and research where appropriate.

GUIDELINES

1. Parents may choose for their child to do far less homework than suggested, however this is to be done in consultation with the teacher.
2. Preparation and organisational tasks in readiness for the next school day should be routine for all children. These tasks are included within the time allocation guidelines.
3. Homework should only be completed from Monday to Thursday. Time allocations each night will be determined by the teachers based on the needs of the child, although should not exceed more than 30 minutes per night.
4. Each teacher will have a particular system for collecting and providing feedback on homework that will be communicated to parents.
5. Homework expectations grow as the students move into the senior years and become more independent learners. In the early years it is strictly about practicing the essential skills for learning and as the students develop we begin to add in skills to develop the whole child as well.



HARRISDALE HOMEWORK GRID MODEL

Consensus of staff is that all year levels are able to employ some form of a Homework Grid to allocate and monitor homework. All Students from PP to Year 6 are expected to complete the minimum nightly activities each night. See the 'Nightly Activities' table below:

Nightly	Reading Students are to read their home reader nightly for a minimum of 10 minutes until it is finished. Upon completion they are to read their library book, a novel from home, or the newspaper. Parents need to sign or initial in the boxes each night the student reads.				Magic Words Students are required to be able to read their magic words initially, and then write all of their words to progress further. <i>Junior students simple need to read the words, whereas senior students need to write them and demonstrate that they can use them in context.</i>				Maths Focus Students are to complete the following maths activities for the week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Number Facts • Mental Maths • Athletics • Study Ladder 			
	Parent Initial	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	MON	TUE	WED

As students move through Early Childhood and into primary schooling years the expectations are raised gradually and teachers may opt to add additional activities that are completely either weekly or fortnightly. Please remember that these should be based on students learning experiences in the classroom or fundamental life skills and need regular and constant feedback.

Weekly Activities	Activity one:			Activity two:			Activity three:		
	Activity four:			Activity five:			Activity six:		
	Activity seven:			Activity eight:			Activity nine:		

To support staff collaboration staff also have access to a Google Doc through which they can add ideas for all to share. This supports staff to work smarter not harder.

https://docs.google.com/a/harrisdaleps.wa.edu.au/document/d/1EGni9UoG_pgZ_kZTizAiqNojbWmO_yGHXfT1I-7dDuA/edit?usp=sharing

Individual classroom teachers will employ systems for monitoring and feedback that best suits the needs of their class. Wherever possible feedback should be given directly to students in timely and meaningful ways. It is also recommend that homework achievement is made visible in the classroom environment to connect student learning between school and home.

The following is a guide to the types of homework likely to be provided at Harrisdale Primary School. These focuses should be developed by classroom teachers and teams to create activities to fill out the grid.

	KINDY	PP	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5	YR 6
READING FOCUS	Reading with a parent	Reading to a parent	Reading to a parent	Reading to a parent	Reading to a parent	Reading to a parent	Independent reading	Independent reading
LITERACY		Magic Words	Magic Words	Magic Words & Spelling	Magic Words & Spelling	Spelling Activities	Spelling Activities	Spelling Activities
MATHEMATICS		Basic Number Facts	Basic Number Facts	Mental Maths Skills	Mental Maths Skills	Mental Maths Skills & Concept Application	Mental Maths Skills & Concept Application	Mental Maths Skills & Concept Application
STUDY SKILLS & ROUTINES							Concept Specific Tasks & Unfinished Work	Concept Specific Tasks & Unfinished Work

PLEASE NOTE: Each element within this guide would have a time allocation of 5 - 15 minutes depending on student developmental need. As an example PP student may only spend 5 minutes on Magic words, whereas a Year 6 Student may spend longer and it include some form of written application of words as well.

SHARED ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HOMEWORK

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL/TEACHER

In presenting homework the teacher should:

- a) Have homework well organised
- b) Advise students as clearly and accurately as possible, preferably in written form.
- c) Set clear and reasonable deadlines as to when the assignment / homework is due.
- d) Encourage a planned and responsible approach so that work is not done in a hurry at the end.
- e) Communicate incomplete or unattempted homework to the parents (telephone, email or sending home notes).
- f) Feedback should be purposeful and timely (within 1 to 2 days of being handed in).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

- a) Make sure you clearly understand what has to be done, when is it due in and any other details
- b) If you were absent when homework was given out, it is up to you to find out (from friends or from your teacher) what you missed and do something about it.
- c) Communicate with your teacher if you have any difficulties or do not understand what has to be done.
- d) Organise your overall time for homework and study
- e) Keep a homework diary
- f) Make a genuine effort to complete all homework

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

We do know that there are sometimes difficulties facing parents when it comes to helping students. However, very valuable help can be given by:

- a) Children need the opportunity to play and relax after school.
- b) Set up a homework survival kit, does your child have all he/she needs to complete his/her assignments? Or do they waste time searching for pencils etc.
- c) Homework is best done at a quiet time set aside for homework completion.
- d) Completing homework in front of the television is not recommended.
- e) Ask your child to explain what he/she is doing for homework.
- f) Praise your child. It is easy to criticise your child when homework is not done. It is a lot harder to give applause for homework completed. It is important to remember that your words of praise, more than anything else, will motivate your child to do his/her best. "A Parent's Role is not Teacher; it is Coach and Cheer Squad."

CONCLUSION

Homework should be a positive experience for children and parents, aimed at building work ethic and enhancing the extent to which a child benefits from the real life learning and the school's learning experience.