



# John Warby Public School Homework Policy

Updated August 2020

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## **Rationale**

Quality homework in infants and primary school may help students to establish habits of study, broaden their understandings and skills across the curriculum and assist them in planning and organising their time. Homework strengthens home-school links, provides parents and carers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their child/ren. This policy has been developed to consider the quality, manageability and communication of homework across the school P-6. The homework policy has been developed in consultation with the John Warby School community.

## **Policy Statement**

Homework is a valuable part of schooling and provides students with opportunities to practise, extend and consolidate work completed in class as well as develop life skills.

## **Implementation**

Teachers will set suitable homework which is varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, stage of schooling and capabilities of students. Homework is marked promptly and teachers should provide timely and relevant feedback on achievement.

Parents/Carers will be given the opportunity to 'Opt-Out' of their child completing homework at the beginning of the school year. Written confirmation of this will be required via a note (see attachment A).

Homework will be planned, communicated to students and sent home weekly. Each stage will communicate what day homework is handed out and should be returned. Homework across K-6 will be sent home in:

Term 1: Weeks 5 - 8

Term 2: Weeks 2 - 8

Term 3: Weeks 2 - 8

Term 4: Weeks 2 - 8

A note will be sent out to parents/carers at the beginning of each school year outlining homework stage expectations. If parents/carers do not opt out, students will be expected to complete their weekly homework and return it to school for marking and feedback.

## **Quality**

Research indicated that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:

- appropriate for each students age and ability
- relevant to each student's needs
- purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- varied and challenging, but achievable
- built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework

Homework should recognise the place of technology and the benefits of using technology such as home computers, E-mail and the Internet for organising and accessing information. Schools, however, should have regard for equity issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged.

## **Manageability**

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

Homework that is manageable for students will:

- be age appropriate
- consider students' outside of school hours commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition and home responsibilities
- take into account students' access to resources and technology beyond school
- be clearly communicated to students
- provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances.

## **Communication**

Communication and the provision of clear information between teachers, parents/carers and students is a requirement of an effective school Homework Policy. Parents/Carers of students experiencing difficulties completing homework needs to be confident these concerns can be discussed with the teacher and that guidance and assistance will be provided.

## **Homework Considerations**

### **Preschool**

Homework will not be set for preschool students.

### **Kindergarten - Year 2 (Early Stage 1 and Stage 1)**

In Years K-2 some formal homework may be set. All activities at home or in play can assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. It should also be remembered that self-directed play in unstructured time is important. Language and number concepts can be introduced and consolidated in many family activities, including: shopping; preparation of food; listening to stories, learning songs and nursery rhymes; conversations about what is happening at school; interactive video and computer programs; reading; library borrowing; family outings; collecting items.

### **Years 3- 6 (Stages 2 and 3)**

As students progress they increasingly work independently on their homework, however it is important that teachers continue to provide guidance and assistance, particularly in the development of study skills. It is also important that students have the opportunity to experience different types of homework and that the amount of time that students are expected to work on homework is realistic. Although most homework is likely to be set in the areas of English and Mathematics, it could be set across all areas of the curriculum.

### **Support Unit (Early Stage 1-Stage 3)**

Students in the support unit will be encouraged to practice life skills at home such as making their bed, tidying their rooms and helping with other chores such as meal preparation and washing up. Learning self-care skills such as tying shoelaces and packing their own lunch boxes and bag are desirable skills to practise. Students will have access to online programs and worksheets to practice their Literacy and Numeracy skills.

## **Minimum requirements at John Warby Public School**

All students at John Warby Public School are expected to complete homework on a weekly basis, including students with additional learning needs, unless their parent/carer has opted out. Adjustments will be made to the content and expected time spent on homework to meet individual learning needs.

**K – 2:** Each week students should be given Spelling, Mathematics and Home Reading (readers from the classroom) as homework activities.

**Recommended times** should be spent on homework (4 nights per week)

Kindergarten: 15 minutes per night

Year 1: 20 minutes per night

Year 2: 20 minutes per night

**3 - 6:** Each week students should be given Spelling, Mathematics and Home Reading (Library books or reading material of interest from home) as homework activities. Students in Years 3 to 6 may be given a minimum of 1 project/assignment per semester.

**Recommended times** should be spent on homework (4 nights per week)

Year 3: 25 minutes

Year 4: 25 minutes

Year 5: 30 minutes

Year 6: 30-40 minutes in preparation for high school

**Support Unit K-6:** Each week students should practice life skills and self care. Students should be given Home Reading (Library books, readers from the classroom, or reading materials of interest from home) and may access online programmes used in the classroom.

NB: Homework **should be issued in written form** to the students. If for any reason students write down any aspects of their homework to complete, it should be checked and signed by the teacher to verify the accuracy of the homework to complete and the correctness of spelling in particular.

## **Responsibilities**

**We believe the role of the student is to:**

- complete homework within the given time frame
- alert parents/carers of homework expectations
- seek assistance from teachers and parents/carers when difficulties arise
- show their homework to their parents/carers and ask them to sign it when finished
- ensure homework is neatly presented and of a high standard
- organise their time efficiently to ensure adequate time is given to completing homework to a high quality and within set deadlines
- return their homework to the teacher for feedback

**We believe the role of the teacher is to:**

- implement the school's Homework Policy
- communicate to students and parents/carers the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework
- provide quality homework activities, which relate to class work and meet the minimum requirements at John Warby Public School
- set a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student
- ensure that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for students
- support students having difficulties with homework
- give students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, competing home obligations, extra-curricular activities and homework set by other teachers
- mark homework promptly and appropriately, provide feedback and maintain homework records
- provide a copy of the weekly homework to their supervisor and stage colleague
- provide parents/carers with relevant feedback when appropriate
- promptly alert parents/carers of any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggest strategies that can be used to assist their child with his/her homework

**NB:** If a teacher other than the classroom teacher allocates homework to a student, it is expected that this is communicated to the classroom teacher as a priority i.e. Library, Creative Arts.

**We believe parents and carers can help by:**

- taking an active interest in homework
- ensuring that there is time set aside for homework
- encouraging and supporting students to complete homework
- providing, where possible, a designated place and desk for homework and study
- encouraging their child/ren to read and take an interest in current events
- assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
- communicating with teachers any concerns about homework such as the nature of the work set and their child's approach to the homework
- alerting the school to any domestic or extra-curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected

Reference: NSW Department of Education & Training 'Homework Policy' – 7/8/2000. Updated 14/4/2020.

Implementation documents: Homework Policy Guidelines May 2012.

Attachments: Letter A – Homework Opt-Out Parent/Carer



## John Warby Public School Homework Opt-Out

John Warby PS Homework Policy has been developed in consultation with the school community. This consultation indicated that families would like the flexibility to decide whether or not their child/children commit to class homework activities. Therefore, at John Warby parents and carers are able to look at their after-school commitments and priorities and decide whether or not to participate in homework activities.

Please complete the permission note below if you wish to 'Opt-Out' of homework for your child and return it to school. If you have any questions please speak with your child's teacher.

A full copy of the Homework Policy can be found on the school's webpage: [www.johnwarby-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.johnwarby-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/)

### HOMework OPT OUT

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

I have decided my child will NOT be required to complete homework this year.  
(Please tick)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_