



## Wollongbar Public School

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Principal: Jennifer Thomas



# Wollongbar Public School Homework Policy

## What is Homework?

Homework refers to any activities that school students are asked to complete outside of lesson time.

## Rationale

- Homework bridges the gap between learning at school and learning at home.
- It reinforces work done in class.
- It helps develop skills such as research and time management.
- Homework provides challenges and stimulus to students.
- Homework helps to establish the habits of study, concentration and self discipline.
- Parents have the opportunity to see and contribute to the progress of their child.

## Research<sup>1</sup>

Students report positive attitudes to homework, and feel some homework is important in helping them do well at school. Students who complete homework generally outperform students who do not on some measures of academic achievement. Homework can improve students' study skills, improve their attitudes toward school, and demonstrate that learning can take place outside of formal schooling. However, excessive homework may impact negatively on student achievement and also reduce student access to leisure activities that can also teach important life skills.

Positive parental involvement in homework is associated with higher levels of student achievement. Interactive homework approaches, where the child and parent complete an activity together, can assist in making homework more meaningful for students and their families. When too much homework is set, or when parents use different methods to those taught at school, homework can cause conflict between parents and children. Homework can also place stress on family life by reducing family time available for leisure and family activities, and by putting pressure on families to take on undesired roles. Parents can influence the homework environment, through creating appropriate conditions for learning and encouraging their children to complete homework tasks.

Research indicates that some homework is better than too much or none at all, however the time spent on homework needs to be responsive to the student's age and development.

There is research evidence to suggest that the following strategies may be particularly helpful:

- Parental communication and involvement
- Devising short, relevant tasks
- Homework planners/diaries across a period of time
- Teaching students self-monitoring techniques

Following a review of time allocations within the UK, USA and Victoria, the following guidelines have been devised for Wollongbar Public School:

### Wollongbar Public School Time Allocations (Average per Day)

Kindergarten: 10 minutes	Year One: 12 minutes	Year Two: 15 minutes
Year Three: 20 minutes	Year Four: 20 minutes	
Year Five: 30 minutes	Year Six: 30 minutes	

### Basic Rules of Homework

- Homework should be appropriate for each student's stage and ability.
- Homework should take into account students' other commitments, such as sport, hobbies and home responsibilities.
- Homework should take into account technology such as email and the Internet so that students without access are not disadvantaged.
- Teachers should encourage homework for all students. Teachers should also encourage that work tasks should be done nightly rather than on one night.
- Students should be rewarded for completion of homework rather than punished for non completion.
- Homework is to be set regularly –on a weekly cycle.
- Homework is to be explained clearly to the class when handed out.
- Homework is to be marked within the week or at a specified date for long term assignments.
- Homework will be generally set 4 nights a week (eg Monday-Thursday)

### Types of Homework

1. **Practice exercises:** to apply new knowledge covered in class or review, revise and reinforce skills.
2. **Preparatory exercises** – for gaining background information on a unit of study.
3. **Extension assignments** – to encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, using skills taught at school.

Where homework is causing concern or conflict, parents are encouraged to refer to the WPS **Approaching Your School** policy and make contact with the class teacher regarding their concerns.

Jennifer Thomas  
Principal

### Footnote:

1. Research drawn from *Homework Literature Review*, Queensland Government Publication 2004