

HOMework POLICY

PURPOSE

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

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

Teachers at Courtenay 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 like times tables or extension/support activities.

Prep to 2

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate basic literacy and numeracy skills. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.

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

Year 3 to Year 4

In the middle years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to reinforce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.

Assigned homework tasks may include daily independent reading with support/extension assignments, spelling tasks, problem solving and times tables.

Year 5 to Year 6

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 support/extension assignments, class work, projects and research.

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.

Courtenay 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 Courtenay Gardens Primary School will:

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

** Please note homework is not sent home over the school holiday periods or when students take extended holiday leave.*

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/carers 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, and recreational and cultural activities.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- providing their own learning opportunities/materials for their students during extended holiday periods
- 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 or displays their child is involved in
- ensuring upper primary students keep a homework diary
- if possible, 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 family's 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
- ensuring their child reads daily over the school holiday period to maintain the skills that have been taught.

Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Courtenay Gardens Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing the set homework, we encourage you to speak to the classroom teachers.

Students may be referred to programs by their teacher in consultation with their parents/carers. For more information about these programs, please contact your child's year level coordinator.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 12th November 2019 and is scheduled for review in November 2020.