

Harrington Park Public School

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Rationale

Whilst homework is not compulsory in NSW public schools, Harrington Park Public School teachers believe there is value in establishing positive home study patterns during primary school. Homework allows for practice, extension and consolidation of work done in class and builds independent work habits. It is important for students to have time to spend with their family as well as time for play, cultural pursuits and physical activities outside of school.

In developing their Homework Policy, schools should be aware that while the policy itself is compulsory, the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year levels are not. This approach to developing a Homework Policy is in line with a number of factors:

- community expectations about homework are variable
- research regarding the value of homework is inconclusive
- schools are best placed to make decisions about homework in consultation with their communities.

Policy statement

The aim of homework at Harrington Park Public School:

1. To provide training for students in planning and organising time.
2. To reinforce and extend class work and consolidate skills and knowledge.
3. To promote positive home / school relationships.

Homework tasks should be assigned by teachers with a specific, explicit learning purpose. On completion, teachers should acknowledge student effort and provide feedback related to student. Expectations regarding homework are communicated at the beginning of the school year.

Regular homework includes:

- Reading - All students are expected to read at home each night and maintain a reading diary or log. This record will be viewed by the teacher at least once a week. For students who are non-independent readers, the school will provide an appropriately levelled text. Students who are independent readers are expected to read a variety of age-appropriate texts. The time set aside for reading should reflect the child's age and ability with longer, sustained periods of 20 - 30 minutes occurring for independent readers.

- Mathletics - Each child in the school is provided with access and a login to Mathletics. It is expected that students achieve 1000 points on Mathletics before Sunday night, each week.
- Preparatory activities - From time to time, a student may be required to undertake a homework activity in order to prepare for a lesson or class activity. This preparation may include, but is not limited to: preparing a speech or news presentation, research related to a unit of work or individual study, or collecting items for an upcoming activity.

Parent responsibilities

- Take an active interest and/or role in homework completion.
- Ensure that there is time set aside for homework and that there is a dedicated place free from distractions for homework.
- Encourage and support their child/ren to complete homework activities.
- Communicate with the teacher any concerns about the nature of homework and their child/ren's approach to the completion of homework activities.

Teacher responsibilities

- Discuss the expectations for homework at the commencement of the school year.
- Provide feedback to the student, as required.
- Encourage students to complete homework. Failure to complete homework is not punishable by detention or completion during breaks at school.

Student responsibilities

- Take responsibility, with parental support, for completing homework activities.
- Read at home nightly and maintain a reading diary / log, returning it to the class teacher at least once per week.
- Complete set tasks and free choice tasks on Mathletics, reaching a total of at least 1000 points each week.
- Complete preparatory activities by the due date.

The policy will be monitored by all staff and formally reviewed in 2024.