

Upper Swan Primary School

Homework Policy - Updated May 2019



Introduction:

Before children start Kindergarten, many families facilitate child development in a multitude of informal ways. By doing so, children develop and interest in the world.

The relationship built between children and the significant adults occurs in natural ways as families play together, interact and build traditions. Although the way these things happen evolves, this 'natural' approach should continue throughout primary school life. As much as possible, homework should replicate this natural way of learning.

Homework is encouraged, but it is optional. Students won't be punished for not completing homework, although they may be rewarded for completing it.

The perceived need to complete homework should not be a barrier to children and families pursuing hobbies and interests outside of school. The setting of homework needs to take into consideration the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle which includes family time, sport, recreation and cultural pursuits.

Rationale:

Homework has the potential to help children progress by extending the time available for them to consolidate skills and concepts learned at school. Homework is an opportunity for parents to show interest in what their children are learning and to support the work of teachers.

Homework supports the work of teachers by extending learning time in a supportive environment, where it is possible for parents to provide *one-on-one* assistance. In saying this, research shows that homework in primary school is not going to make a major difference to student achievement.

At Upper Swan we believe the purpose of homework is to:

- support individual and class learning programs
- allow students extra time to conduct and complete research assignments
- encourage older students to work independently away from the school environment, enabling them to develop the work habits needed for their future education.

Expectations:

The following statements are a guideline for each phase of schooling. There may be variations between class teachers with some, but not necessarily all, of these activities being undertaken and consideration being given to after school commitments many families have.

All class teachers will provide parents with information about homework expectations within the first few weeks of the school year. This may be at a class meeting, by note or email.

Early Childhood (K-PP)

Homework should be a pleasurable experience that parents share with their children.

Parents can foster learning experiences in the home that provide opportunities for:

- Unstructured free play with friends, siblings and parents.
- Exploring the natural environment.
- Observation, manipulation and exploration of objects, materials and technologies.
- Home reading - developmentally appropriate reading at home on a regular basis. Home reading is made up of paired reading (adult and child reading together), the child reading by themselves (aloud or silently) or taking turns. Reading materials may be school readers, library books or any other book appropriate to the age and ability of the child.
- Modelled Reading – Parents regularly reading books to their children.

- Maths – recognition of numbers and shapes; knowing some simple addition facts. It can involve naming and knowing the characteristics of shapes.
- Completing Mathematics tasks on the computer.
- Phonics/ spelling / sight words: revision of developmentally appropriate sounds, letters and words.
- Complete household chores.

Junior Primary Years 1, 2 and 3

Homework should be a pleasurable experience that parents share with their children.

Parents can foster learning experiences in the home that provide opportunities for:

- Play with friends, siblings and parents.
- Exploring the natural environment.
- Complete household chores.
- Cooking activities that involve measurement and reading.
- Reading and money concepts when shopping
- Involve children in reading timetables; for example television guides.
- Observation, manipulation and exploration of objects, materials, technologies and physical activity.
- Home reading- developmentally appropriate reading at home on a regular basis. Home reading is made up of paired reading with both adult and child reading together, child reading by themselves (aloud or silently) or taking turns. Reading materials may be school readers, library books or any other book appropriate to the age and ability of the child.
- Modelled Reading – Parents regularly reading books to their children.
- Maths – recognition of numbers and shapes; knowing some simple addition facts. It can involve naming and knowing the characteristics of shapes.
- Learning simple number facts.
- Completing Mathematics tasks on the computer.
- Phonics/ spelling / sight words: revision of developmentally appropriate sounds, letters and words.

Middle Childhood Years 4, 5 and 6

Homework should be a pleasurable experience that parents share with their children.

Parents can foster learning experiences in the home that provide opportunities for:

- Cooking activities that involve measurement and reading.
- Complete household chores.
- Involve children in reading timetables; for bus and train timetables
- Home reading- allowing extra 'stay up' time to foster reading for pleasure. Books and other materials can be self-selected by the children.
- Maths-regular revision of developmentally appropriate number facts.
- Completing Mathematics tasks on the computer.
- Spelling - revision and drill of words as appropriate.
- Independent projects: doing 'finishing off' and presentation work for research topics; where the research has been completed at school. Integrated is the need to learn time management skills for work that is due by a set date.
- Of their own volition, children may choose to conduct additional inquiry into, and investigation of, class topics.

Note: Independent Research Topics

The vast majority of the research and note taking for investigations needs to be done at school. Students have the choice of doing extra research at home, but it can't be an expectation. Homework should focus on the presentation of research.