



Valentine Public School

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6th February 2022

Homework Policy

Policy Statement

At Valentine Public School we believe that the role of homework in our student's lives needs to be considerate of international research, NSW Department of Education Policy and community consultation in order to structure a school based policy that satisfies departmental requirements and the needs of families and individual students.

Community consultation and survey provides evidence that our families want choice in decision- making around homework for students and that families are considerate of wellbeing for their child and the family in this decision- making process. It is important that families are able to make their own decisions based on what is best for the family's work/ life balance and life choices.

Homework may help students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. However, as some international research suggests, homework may not necessarily have as significant impact on future learning as we may have previously believed.

Homework provides an opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents in partnership with the school should feel confident to make decisions around homework for the student based on individual needs and family beliefs and wellbeing.

Purpose

- To develop sound, self-disciplined study habits
- To practise skills taught at school which will consolidate learning
- To be flexible in order to offer choice for best fit for the well-being of our families



Implementation

- Teachers are to refer to the NSW Department of Education Homework Policy for general guidance.
- After community, P&C, staff and student consultation Valentine families will have the choice to sign to 'opt in' or 'opt out' of homework for the individual student. A return slip will inform administration.
- Reading is always an important component of home learning K-6.
- Homework should be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- Valentine Public School's Homework Policy will be available to parents on the school website
- Teachers should be consistent when applying their homework routines.
- Homework checklists for the class will not be displayed in classrooms.
- Student effort and performance in homework should be acknowledged in written and oral reporting processes.
- Homework will not be set to be completed over a weekend or holiday period.
- Assessment tasks will not be given as homework.
- Homework should be appropriate to student's skill level. Teachers are not required to individualise homework however should consider the abilities of students with special needs when setting tasks and may alter the task accordingly.
- Early Stage 1 students will be sent home 'readers' and/or sight words which require that their reading be listened to and practised each week night.
- Stage 1 students may on occasions be set some written work. However, most homework at this stage is primarily practising reading and spelling skills. The students will be sent home 'readers', which require that their reading be listened to each weeknight.
- Week 5 each term will be designated as "Family Week", when no homework will be issued.



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Types of Effective Homework

If homework is taken as an option it should pertain to one or more of the following categories:

- Practise and review of literacy and numeracy skills.
- Activities that help to establish study habits and learning skills
- Planning activities for tasks to be done in class

A VPS Homework Hub has been created for students wishing to engage in homework and / or establish study habits. The VPS Homework Hub can be accessed at:

<https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/vps-homeworkhub/home>

Suggested Time

If the student/ parent opt in for homework the suggested timeframes are:

STAGE	RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOCATED	SUGGESTED HOMEWORK	DAYS
Early Stage 1	10 - 15 minutes approximately	Sight words Home Reading	Monday - Thursday
Stage 1	10 - 15 minutes approximately	Sight Words Home Reading	Monday - Thursday
Stage 2	20 minutes approximately	Matific Literacy Pro Reading Challenge	Monday - Thursday
Stage 3	30 minutes approximately	Matific Literacy Pro Reading Challenge Typing	Monday - Thursday

Regards,

Mrs Lee Saurins

Principal