



Marayong Heights Public School

Homework Policy

Rationale

Whilst homework can be viewed as an important aspect of schooling “*There is little consensus in the literature as to whether homework raises student achievement. Most researchers, however, conclude that for primary students, there is no evidence that homework lifts academic performance*” (DEC Homework Policy, 2012). The Marayong Heights Public School community recognises the need for a balanced approach between homework and out of school commitments such as physical and sporting activities, cultural obligations and family time.

Policy Statement

This Homework Policy aims to ensure that there is a clear understanding and consistent approach to homework at Marayong Heights Public School. The Homework Policy aims to integrate Marayong Heights Public School community needs and values whilst providing a framework outlining expectations and responsibilities for students, teachers and parents/caregivers.

Implementation

Kindergarten to Year 6

Reading

All students are expected to read at home each day. Please refer to the following table which outlines age appropriate time lengths for reading per day. Students who are not reading independently will bring home appropriately levelled school readers. Students who are independent readers will be expected to read a variety of age appropriate texts.

Grade	Time
Kindergarten	5 minutes
Year 1	10 minutes
Year 2	10 minutes
Year 3	15 minutes
Year 4	15 minutes
Year 5	20 minutes
Year 6	20 minutes

Term Overview

At the beginning of each term a letter will be sent home to share an overview of the terms intended learning and areas of study. This will allow parents/caregivers to have a deeper understanding of the learning their child will be engaging in throughout the term.

Opting Out

Marayong Heights Public School acknowledges that homework is not compulsory and recognises that homework does not suit each family's values and beliefs. It is highly recommended that all students complete homework; however parents/caregivers are entitled to 'Opt Out' of homework each term or year for their child/children. The parent/caregiver must write a letter to the class teacher informing them of their decision. This will mean that the student will not receive homework nor be expected to complete it. Students will still be encouraged to read for the suggested age appropriate time each day.

Homework for Kindergarten to Year 2

Homework will be issued fortnightly on Monday and returned on Friday morning (except for the first and last week of each term). Homework will be presented in a grid format with 6 options which will include a range of activities for students to complete. Homework expectations are:

- Students will complete **4 out of the 6 activities** in the grid each week.
- Students **MUST complete their reading and sight words** activities in the grid each week (this will count for 2 activities out of the 6).
- Students are free to choose 2 other activities they wish to complete.
- Activities will include a range of learning areas, physical activity, life skills and family interactions. Please note that no Mathematic activities will be set due to the possible varying teaching strategies between school and home.

Homework for Year 3 to Year 4

Each semester students will be asked to complete a research-based project. Students will be able to choose a topic to investigate and will present their research at the end of the semester. The 3 stages of research-based projects are '**research, create, and present**'. The research-based project expectations are:

- Students choose a topic from a list created by stage teachers to investigate that is interesting to them and that is age appropriate (**Research**). Students and parents/caregivers can consult with the class teacher to ascertain project appropriateness.
- Students decide how they wish to present their research, in a mode that is achievable for the student to do so independently (**Create**).
- Students present their completed research based project at school in the final week/weeks of the semester (**Present**).

- Each semester students will be provided with clear written instructions and expectations for the project, such as the presentation dates, outline of marking criteria, possible suggestions for areas of research and modes of presentation, as well as the acceptable level of parent assistance.

Homework for Year 5 to Year 6

Each term students will be asked to complete a research-based project. This will allow students to develop their time management and organisation skills in order to assist their transition into high school. Students will be able to choose a topic to investigate and will present their research at the end of the semester. Students will The 3 stages of research-based projects are '**research, create, and present**'. The research-based project expectations are:

- Students choose a topic from a list created by stage teachers to investigate that is interesting to them and that is age appropriate (**Research**). Students and parents/caregivers can consult with the class teacher to ascertain project appropriateness.
- Students decide how they wish to present their research, in a mode that is achievable for the student to do so independently (**Create**).
- Students present their completed research based project at school in the final week/weeks of the term (**Present**).
- Each term students will be provided with clear written instructions and expectations for the project, such as the presentation dates, outline of marking criteria, possible suggestions for areas of research and modes of presentation, as well as the acceptable level of parent assistance.

Expectations of Students, Parents/Caregivers and Teachers

At Marayong Heights Public School **students** are encouraged to:

- Read at home each day
- Take responsibility, with parental support, for completing homework activities/projects.
- Ensure homework activities/projects are handed in on time.

At Marayong Heights Public School it is recommended that **parents/caregivers**:

- Encourage their child/children to read every day.
- Take a supportive role in the completion of homework/projects.
- Ensure there is time set aside to complete homework tasks/projects.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns or issues about their child/children's ability to complete their homework.

At Marayong Heights Public School it is expected that **teachers**:

- Encourage students to read every day and provide access to home readers for students who are not reading independently.
- Inform students and parents/caregivers of the Marayong Heights Public School Homework Policy at the beginning of each year or enrolment.

- Give feedback to students as required.
- K-2 teachers will prepare and give out homework grids fortnightly on Monday and collect homework each Friday morning. This will occur fortnightly week for the first and last week of each term.
- Year 3 to 4 teachers will prepare and give out research-based project outlines at the beginning of each semester and will organise dates for presenting projects in the last week/weeks of each semester.
- Years 5 to 6 teachers will prepare and give out research-based project outlines at the beginning of each term and will organise dates for presenting projects in the last week/weeks of each term.
- Contact parents/caregivers if there are any issues concerning the completion of a student's homework.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Marayong Heights Public School Homework Policy will be regularly monitored. It will be reviewed and evaluated in relation to its purpose, its effectiveness and the quality and types of activities/projects being completed. This policy will be reviewed in 2019.