

WARREN CENTRAL SCHOOL



K-12

HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale

At Warren Central School we believe that homework, like school work, plays an integral part in the learning process. It is important for students of all ages, helping them build on what they have learnt or experienced in their classroom. It also can help them prepare for the next stage in their learning.

Homework must be seen as a partnership between home and school. While it is valuable in helping teachers assess the progress of students it also provides opportunities for parents and caregivers to support young people while they learn.

- Homework is usually formally organised and given by the teacher to all the students in the class.
- Study is a program of revision designed by the student in conjunction with the teacher to prepare for examinations.
- Both homework and study are essential to prepare students for the internal and external exams they will face at school.
- Homework should reinforce the learning in the classroom. Therefore it is important that homework should:
 - be a time for positive interaction between family members
 - provide parents with an indication of what is happening in the classroom
 - be challenging and stimulating to all students on many different levels
 - vary according to the needs of the class.

Guidelines

The following should be used as a guide only:

- Kindergarten: No homework
- Year 1 Informal homework with no set time limit
- Years 2-3 10-15 minutes per night on average three nights per week
- Years 4-6 Around thirty minutes per night on average 3 nights a week. This may increase during particular periods of the year or when a special project is involved.
- Years 7-8: 1-1½ hours per night for 4 nights per week
- Years 9-10 2-2½ hours per night for 4 night per week
- Years 11-12 3 hours per night increasing as student gets closer to HSC for 5 nights per wee.

In the first and last weeks of Term no formal homework should be set

The teacher's role is to:

- Provide interesting and challenging homework appropriate to the abilities of the class.
- Cultivate a belief in self-directed home study.
- Consider the availability of relevant resources and materials to complete the tasks.
- Give clear explicit instructions and feedback; review and mark all work.
- Be consistent in their approach to homework.
- Teach the necessary research and other skills to enable students to complete homework tasks.
- Provide homework tasks that can be treated over a period of time – not all on one night taking into account the different activities children and their families may be involved in.

The parent's role is to:

- Provide an environment for the child where supervision, encouragement and help as provided.
- Respect the child's knowledge and skills.
- Communicate with the teacher and sign the homework.
- Cultivate habits of self-directed home study.

The student's role is to:

- Accept the responsibility for the completion of the homework and complete tasks to the best of their ability.
- Ask for the help of the teacher and family if necessary.
- Ensure the work is handed in for marking.

Suitable formal activities:

- Practice and consolidation eg Maths, stencils, Spelling activities.
- Written work eg sheets of information.
- Reading which requires a response eg book reviews, character analysis.
- Reading; aloud and/or silently.
- Design and make Science activities.
- Research work eg HSIE
- Writing tasks eg diary/journal writing, handwriting, text types.

Suitable informal activities:

- Reading and being read to for enjoyment.
- Observation and discussion.
- Using the home environment eg measuring
- Bringing in from home
- Drawing.
- Playing.
- Reading the paper, watching the news, cutting out of magazines.

Activities are unsuitable for homework if they:

- Involve work not covered in class.
- Are not appropriate to an individual's ability level.
- Involve equipment not readily available in the home or may be dangerous if used unsupervised.
- May cause conflict or with parents.
- Requires any expense.

Guidelines for parents to assist students develop good study habits:

- The place for study should be quiet and pleasant, away from family and TV. A table or desk should be used so that books and work can be left on it.
- A good light or desk lamp is available.
- Seating should be firm and promote good posture.
- It should not get too hot as this encourages sluggishness.
- The time to study is a matter of personal preference. Discuss with all the family what study times are most appropriate.