Homework Policy
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At Windsor Park Public School we believe that:

Students work hard at school and deserve some time to relax and participate in other activities with their families not related to school: we should value and celebrate students’ involvement in sport, hobbies, outings and other activities which students undertake outside school.

Homework should fit the life of the family rather than the other way around.

Please understand that homework is an optional activity: therefore parents/caregivers can elect for students to participate where and when practicable.

NB. Please try however, to ensure that all students practise their reading skills at every opportunity.

The Homework Grid

“Have a BALL: Be a Life Learner”

Any work that children do at home needs to be acknowledged and parents and teachers should work together to ensure that children do some work at home, but not a lot of sedentary work.

The homework grid is a solution to this age-old problem of getting kids to do something at home and not opt out of family life. The homework grid will enable parents to get children to do their share of work in the home including housework, shopping, physical activity such as sport training and family outings such as walking, fishing and exploring their world – activities which enhance family life. It also covers areas such as reading, being read to, playing a game with parents, research on the computer, music practice and many others.

The homework grid will be fortnightly. Hence it is expected that something from each cell of the grid would be covered by the end of a fortnightly cycle.

An Explanation and Expansion of grid items

- **Read**: reading is an essential part of learning, children may read for pleasure or for gathering information.
- **Be read to**: hearing a book read with expression and intonation adds enjoyment and motivation. Having the instructions for a game, project or recipe read out aloud would also satisfy this cell of the grid.
- **Shopping**: participation in this family orientated activity can develop responsibility and a sense of money value.
• **Physical Activity**: getting fit and being active helps to develop healthy bodies and minds. To complete this cell in the grid, children may attend a regular sports training, or join the family for any physical activity such as walking, cycling, swimming etc. Children may undertake solitary activity such as cycling, jumping on a trampoline or shooting baskets.

• **Housework**: being a member of a family includes fulfilling responsibilities. Children should be completing or assisting with a **daily** chore, these may be as diverse as emptying the dishwasher, feeding a pet, helping to prepare a meal, maintaining the neatness of their own room, yard work or taking out the rubbish.

• **Art**: the creative arts give children an opportunity to express themselves in a non-verbal manner. Children may create original artworks, spend time working on a craft or use the time to improve their skills by using ‘learn to draw’ books.

• **Teach your parents**: sharing the learning of the day helps to reinforce the concepts. Opportunities to share new skills and knowledge assist with the building of a positive self-esteem and attitude towards school.

• **Play a game with an adult**: time playing together is an opportunity for families to bond and share a common purpose. Many negotiation and co-operation skills can be learnt whilst playing games.

• **Assignments / Projects research**: projects and assignments provide children with opportunities to apply their ‘learning how to learn’ skills. Many children require guidance initially with this, particularly in time management.

• **Meditation / Spiritual / Relaxation**: quiet time in order to reflect or emotionally regroup is essential for young people. Activities such as listening to some quiet music, yoga, and meditation, attendance at church activities or time to have a quiet chat with someone older about what is happening in their world would meet the criteria for this cell.

• **Use computer for work**: a computer can be a valuable learning tool. Children may use the computer for research work or playing educational games.

• **Cultural**: many children dance, play musical instruments or attend drama class. Those who do not may complete this cell by attending a performance of some description or by watching a movie (preferably followed up by a discussion with another family member about the movie).

• **News**: being aware of the happenings in our world is critical. It enables children to see wider than their immediate neighbourhood and to see how ones actions can make a difference. Children may be required to watch the TV news, listen to radio news or read newspapers and make a comment on a current topic.

It is hoped that this homework format will reduce stress for students and families and develop a greater sense of awareness of what it means to be part of a family and part of the wider community.

**Suggested times for Homework:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>10-15 minutes</td>
<td>Years 1 and 2</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3 and 4</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
<td>Years 5 and 6</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WPPS Homework  
Reviewed 2016