

# HOMework

## Opt in/Opt out

Dear Parent/Carer,

Plattsburg PS Homework Policy has been developed in consultation with the school community. This consultation indicated that families would like the flexibility to decide whether or not their child/children commit to class homework activities. Therefore, at Plattsburg parents and carers are able to look at their after school commitments and priorities and decide whether or not to participate in homework activities. Please complete the permission note below and return to school.

If you elect to participate in homework activities it is important to understand that all tasks need to be able to be completed independently by the student. If this is not the case please return the homework to the teacher letting them know it could not be completed.

A full copy of the Homework Policy can be found on the school's webpage:

[www.plattsburg-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.plattsburg-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/)

Ellen Bax  
PRINCIPAL

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## HOMework 2018

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Homework (please tick)

YES

☐

NO

☐

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:     /     /2018



## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **Introduction**

Plattsburg Public School acknowledges the benefits of homework where it provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, encourage work habit skills for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

Homework enhances student learning when it:

- is purposeful and relevant to students' needs
- is appropriate to age stage learning
- is appropriate to the capability of the student
- develops the student's independence as a learner
- is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities.

### **Aims of the Policy**

- Homework is a rewarding, positive experience for students, teachers and families, not a source of additional stress
- A whole school approach to homework is applied.

### **The Purpose of Homework**

- is a valuable part of schooling
- allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class
- provides training for students in planning and organising time
- develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources
- establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their lives
- strengthens home-school links
- reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education
- provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children
- challenges and extends gifted and talented children.

## Homework appropriate to particular stages of learning

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

The following is to operate as a guide in determining the amount of set homework that students might be expected to undertake. It is of course open to parents to consult with a student's teacher about additional materials or practice exercises with which parents can assist their children at home.

### Kindergarten - Year 2 (Stage 1)

Generally teachers will not set formal homework in the earliest year of Stage 1. However, all activities at home or in play can assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. It should also be remembered that self directed play in unstructured time is important. Language and number concepts can be introduced and consolidated in many family activities, including:

- shopping
- preparation of food
- listening to stories, learning songs and nursery rhymes
- conversations about what is happening at school
- reading
- library borrowing
- family outings
- interactive video and computer programs
- collecting items.

In the latter stages of Stage 1 consideration should be given to the setting of formal homework as for example in completing simple computations, copying letters or words, or completing an activity sheet.

In Years 1, 2 and 3, set homework could be up to but generally ***not more than*** 1 hour per week.

### Years 3 - 6 (Stages 2 and 3)

Some homework can be completed daily or over a weekly or over a fortnightly period and may include:

- daily independent reading
- writing e.g. a book review
- making or designing something e.g. an art work
- investigations e.g. science, social science
- researching e.g. history, local news
- monitoring e.g. advertising in particular newspapers.

Homework in Year 4 and Year 5 could be up to but generally ***not more than*** 2-3 hours per week. Homework in Year 6 could be up to but generally ***not more than*** 3-4 hours per week.

## Suggested Year Level Requirements

YEAR	Suggested Time per week	Suggested Activities
Kindergarten	Up to but not more than 10 minutes per day, four times per week	No formal homework Regular Home reading, including being read to Family activities such as shopping, food preparation, visiting a library
Years 1 & 2	Up to but not more than 15 minutes per day, four times per week	No formal homework Regular Home Reading Occasional integrated studies related tasks such as interviewing, writing and drawing
Years 3 & 4	Up to but not more than 20 minutes per day, four times per week, up to 1 ½ hours per week	Reading, times tables, writing, completion of class work (if required) Assessment tasks (yr 4)
Years 5 & 6	Up to but not more than 30 minutes per day, up to 2 hours per week	Reading, times tables, writing, projects or investigations, assessment tasks, completion of class work (if required)

### Parents and caregivers can help by:

- taking an active interest in homework
- ensuring that there is time set aside for homework
- encouraging and supporting students to complete homework
- providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study
- encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events
- assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
- communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework
- alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected.

### Technology

Wherever possible homework should recognise the place of technology in today's world and the benefits of using technology such as home computers, e-mail and the Internet for organising and accessing information. Schools, however, should have regard for equity issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology.