

# HOMework POLICY



All schools have different expectations regarding homework.

At Wandana School we believe that:

- Homework is for building confidence and reinforcing / practising what is learnt at school.
- Homework is beneficial when parent positively support their child's learning
- Establishing a set routine assists children develop independence as learners. A regular time needs to be set aside that is best suited to your child / children. E.g. some children need a snack and a play or relaxing time before they begin homework.

Meta-Research carried by John Hattie (Professor of Education, University of Auckland) analysing the effects of homework on 105,282 students worldwide has found that of the 138 factors he has identified that enhance student learning, homework is ranked 88th. His research has found that homework has little effect on student learning, it is only useful to reinforce existing knowledge and skills. Hattie has found that the most useful homework was task orientated where basic skills were practised. No new learning should be given as homework. Homework is more effective, whatever the subject, when it involves rote learning, practice or rehearsal of the subject matter.

## Our Belief:

- Homework is another way for students to build on the learning they do in the classroom.
- Continues the child's learning at home.
- Is interesting and challenging.
- Helps all students to be successful.

## Purpose:

- To complete unfinished work.
- To involve family in positive ways in children's learning.
- To improve independent work habits.

## Time spent on homework:

Recent research supports the need for children to spend quality time with their families with less academic pressure. Research has shown that homework is more effective when kept to a minimum, is focused and frequent. The following are to be used as a guide only:

- Reception—Year 1           informal homework or reading
- Year 2—3                    10-20 minutes
- Year 4—5                    20-30 minutes
- Year 6—7                    30-45 minutes

The maximum time indicated should not be exceeded. The school is also aware that on certain week nights many families have commitments that may impact on the amount of time students spend on homework. In older classes, homework may be set as a weekly contract.

## Home School Communication:

If any children are experiencing difficulty with homework the school requests that parents or caregivers let the class teacher know immediately.

