

Branxholme-Wallacedale Community School



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HOMEWORK POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school's Administration Office.

PURPOSE:

To outline to our school community the Department's and Branxholme Wallacedale Community School's policy requirements relating to homework.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Branxholme Wallacedale Community School.

RATIONALE:

Branxholme Wallacedale Community School has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- providing opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge
- providing opportunities for students to prepare for future lessons
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

DEFINITIONS:

Homework is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

AIMS:

At Branxholme Wallacedale Community School all homework set by teachers will be:

- purposeful
- curriculum-aligned
- appropriate to students' skill level and age
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- monitored by the teacher
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The school's homework policy will be distributed to parents at the commencement of each school year.
- 5/6 students will be allocated homework diaries.
- Classroom teachers will set daily homework appropriate to each child's skill level and age.
- Homework activities should be interesting, challenging and where appropriate, open-ended.
- Each set task must be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum.

Branxholme Wallacedale Community School is a Child Safe School – we have zero tolerance for child abuse.

The types of homework that teachers at Branhholme Wallacedale Community School will include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- completing science investigation exercises
- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising sports skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- applying new skills to home context such as:
 - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
 - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
 - growing plants
 - reviewing their favourite film or book
 - writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
 - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback

Early Years (Prep – Year 1)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Reading activities to, with and by parents.
- Homework will generally not exceed 15 minutes per day and will not be set on weekends or during vacation periods.

Early Years (Year 2 – Year 4)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Reading activities to, with and by parents.
- Homework will generally not exceed 20 minutes per day and will not be set on weekends or during vacation periods.

Middle Years (Year 5 – Year 6)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Independent reading on a daily basis.
- Tasks must be a continuation of classroom work, revision and projects.
- Homework will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day.

SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Branhholme Wallacedale Community School** are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Branhholme Wallacedale Community School** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning (so, they are not 'busy work' or where students 'finish off' work they did/could not complete in class)
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback

- ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.
- It is not acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as additional homework tasks. Teachers are expected to have children complete tasks at school.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment (for older students).

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking homework to:
 - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had
 - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
 - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CAREGIVERS:

Branxholme Wallacedale Community School understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/carers are concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage parents/carers to speak to their child's teacher.

COMMUNICATION:

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES:

[Homework – Department Policy](#)

Home Reading

Aim:

To encourage children to read for pleasure at home.

Rationale:

Learning to read is different for everyone, but we believe it begins with the love of sharing books. Children who are introduced to books from an early age and are read to frequently are more likely to learn to read more easily.

Language is central to children's intellectual, social and emotional development and has an essential role in all key learning areas. Through the active use of the Home Reading Program students will consolidate knowledge, skills and understandings about the reading process that have been taught in the class reading program. It will enable students to develop their own enjoyment, confidence and independence as readers and learners.

Implementation Guidelines:

All students will be provided with a R.E.A.D. I.T. Home Reading book to:

- Encourage regular reading (e.g. 4 nights a week).
- Monitor reading frequency.
- Allow communication between student, teacher and parent.
- Provide a variety of suggestions to support reading.

This book should be used to record:

- Reading that occurs due to school work (take-home reading books, novels).
- Recreational reading (books, magazines, newspapers etc).
- Assisting with reading of younger members of your family.
- Any other reading activities that you believe are consistent with the ideas in this book.

All students will use a reading satchel to store and transport their take home books and the Home Reading book.

All students will have an opportunity to change their take home book on a daily basis if required.

Students will be rewarded with a gifted book for every 25 nights read and signed by parent/carer.

Teachers can help by:

- The teacher will monitor and record all students' home reading.
- Awards will be presented to acknowledge reading achievements.

Parents can help by:

Remember the following when your child is reading:

- Take an interest and involve yourself regularly.
- Praise your child's progress.
- Sign the Home Reading Book each time your child reads.
- Most importantly make sure that everyone enjoys what they are doing.

Grade level requirements:

Grade Level	Suggested time per week	Suggested types of activities
Prep, 1 and 2	10 minutes per day	Regular Home reading, including being read to Family activities such as visiting a library
3 and 4	15 minutes per day	
5 and 6	20 minutes per day	

Consultation	School Council 17/06/2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2030