

# HOMEWORK

## Wahgunyah Primary School Policy

### **Rationale:**

At Wahgunyah Primary School we look at the purpose behind why we do things. We recognise that for most families, homework can be a source of stress and become extremely time consuming. We have taken notice of the huge amount of research behind the benefits of homework for primary aged students. Whilst some people feel that homework develops study habits for future studies, the research states otherwise. The intensive work of Prof. John Hattie, Dr Denise Pope (Stanford Uni), Prof. Richard Walker (Sydney Uni), Alfie Kohn (Boston Uni) concludes that homework has no benefit for primary school students.

With this in mind homework at Wahgunyah Primary is based around nightly reading at all levels and other tasks that are with optional and/or targeted for specific students with specific needs.

### **Aims:**

By limiting the amount of compulsory homework we are requiring our students to do we hope to achieve the following:

- To promote improved literacy skills through a strong emphasis on nightly reading by all students from Prep to Year 6
- To allow families more time during afternoons/evenings to participate in extra-curricular activities
- To provide families with optional tasks that can be completed if families choose to
- To provide the opportunity for additional work to be assigned to specific students on an as needs basis (relevant)

### **Implementation:**

- The school's homework policy will be distributed to parents at the commencement of each school year.
- All children are expected to complete nightly reading which is to be recorded and signed by parents.
- Classroom teachers may choose to set compulsory weekly homework tasks where there is a clear purpose.
- Teachers will provide families with optional homework activities to support the development of Literacy and Numeracy. These tasks are optional and are not required to be handed in or assessed.
- Teachers may wish to provide homework tasks to individual students who may need further support to meet the expectations of their grade level. This will be discussed during a parent meeting.
- Some school programs (such as BigWrite) will still include elements of homework to be completed.

### **Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in

**February 2017**