

Homework Policy 2017

Rationale

Homework helps students by:

- complementing and reinforcing classroom learning
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- providing an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning
- developing self-regulation processes such as goal-setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection and time management
- supporting partnerships with parents by connecting families with the learning of their children

Aims

- To support and extend classroom learning.
- To develop positive study habits.
- To develop a responsibility for self-learning.

Implementation

- The school's homework policy will be available to families via the school website
- 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.
- It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.

Roles and Responsibilities

Schools can support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools♣
- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the homework policy♣
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment♣
- ensuring that upper primary and secondary school students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school. Diaries may be electronic.

Teachers can support students by:

- equipping students with the skills to solve problems

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- encouraging real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensuring parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- developing strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in homework.
- offering a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

Parents can support students by: ♣

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities♣
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity♣
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework♣
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in♣
- ensuring upper primary and secondary students keep a homework diary♣
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences♣
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community groups.

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:♣

- being aware of the school's homework policy♣
- discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations♣
- 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.

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Expectations

Homework should be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- interesting, challenging and when appropriate open ended
- assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided
- balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.

Prep – Year 2

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Reading activities to, with and by parents.
- Simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities.
- Gathering of additional information or materials
- Homework will generally not exceed 15-20 minutes per day

Years 3 & 4

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Reading activities to, with and by parents.
- Simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities.
- Tasks such as continuation of classroom work, projects
- Homework will generally not exceed 20-30 minutes per day

Years 5 & 6

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Independent reading on a daily basis
- Tasks such as continuation of classroom work, projects and assignments, essays and research
- Homework will generally not exceed 45 minutes per day and may be set during weekends and school vacations.

Evaluation

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