



## Homework Policy

### Background:

This Homework Policy has been developed from the Homework Guidelines of the Department of Education and Training (DET), which require that schools must take into account the personal and developmental needs of students.

These guidelines provide information about fostering good life-long learning and study habits, the importance of administering level-appropriate homework to students, and the different types of homework that may be undertaken in schools.

### Rationale:

As part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools, homework is seen as one way of supporting students and their learning, and connecting families with the learning of their children.

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

### Purposes:

1. To cater for the learning needs of individual students.
2. To foster and develop an effective partnership between home and school.
3. To develop in students' independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.
4. To provide opportunities for extension and revision in all areas of the Victorian Curriculum.

### Guidelines:

- Schools should have a documented approach to homework which takes into account the personal and developmental needs of students.
- The homework approach should take into consideration the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, sport and recreation and cultural pursuits.
- The school homework approach should be informed by a shared understanding of tasks set, and be regularly monitored through feedback from teachers, students, parents/carers and the School Council as appropriate.

Homework should:

- be appropriate to the student's age, learning styles and abilities
- balance with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum taught in the classroom
- be interesting, challenging and when appropriate, open ended
- be an integral part of the teaching and learning programs,
- enable students to practise skills that reinforce classroom learning
- be a preparation of Year 6 students for secondary school
- not be given as a disciplinary action

In addition:

- teachers should communicate regularly with other teachers, and with students and parents about their homework.
- tasks set should be appropriate for the individual child, and be consistent across year levels.
- the school's homework policy should be included in the information booklet, and be available to every family in hard copy or on the school's website.

### Implementation:

1. Homework will be required at all levels.
2. Homework will give students opportunities to practise skills, review content and deepen understanding of concepts learned in the classroom.
3. Students and parents will be clearly informed of homework expectations at the beginning of the year.
4. Homework will consist of work that is familiar to the student and at a level which promotes success.
5. Homework instructions will be clear and easy to understand.

6. Homework tasks will be both formal and informal activities.
7. Students will be responsible for the care of materials and the gathering of information and equipment.
8. The school's recommended average **weekly** time for homework will be as follows:
  - a. Prep/1/2: 1 hour (10-15 minutes reading per night)
  - b. Grades 3 & 4: 1½ hours
  - c. Grades 5 & 6: 2 hours
9. Homework will include regular daily reading from a variety of texts at all year levels.
10. Teachers will respond to all homework as soon as possible after the time of completion.

### **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 providing 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 senior students use diaries to provide regular communication between home and school.

**Teachers** can support students by:

- equipping students with the skills to solve problems
- 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 senior students keep a homework diary, and make comments in the reading journal of junior students
- 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 care-givers 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.

This Homework policy was endorsed by School Council in May 2016