

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure Hillsmeade Primary School works with the school community to develop and communicate a considered homework policy.

Scope

This policy applies to students in all year levels, parents/carers and staff responsible for setting homework.

Guidance

Victorian government schools are required to have a homework policy.

The content of this policy is not prescribed by the Department, but should be evidence-informed and comprehensive, outlining:

- a rationale for the elements of the school's policy
- the responsibilities and expectations of teachers, students and parents/carers in setting, completing, monitoring and responding to homework

The setting of homework can be seen as one way of:

- complementing and reinforcing classroom learning
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- developing self-regulation processes such as goal-setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection and time management
- supporting partnerships with parents/carers by connecting families with the learning of their children

The effectiveness of homework can be enhanced when:

- it is set at an appropriate level for each student, supporting those who are experiencing difficulty and extending those of high-ability
- it is related to essential learning at school
- choice in tasks is provided
- it is assessed by teachers, either formally or informally, with feedback provided
- it supports students to have a balance of school-related and non-school related activity in their lives (i.e. where the amount of homework set provides sufficient additional time for students to engage with family, sport and recreation, cultural pursuits and employment, where appropriate)

Definition

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

Policy

The school's homework policy will be developed in consultation with the School Council, as representatives of the school community, and school staff and students. School Council approval of a school's homework policy is not required.

We will periodically communicate our homework policy to staff, parents/carers and students through available communication channels (such as the school newsletter and by placing the policy on the school's website).

Homework Expectations at this School

Foundation (Prep) to Year 4

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.

Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.

Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

Homework will:

- Mainly consist of daily reading to, with and by parents/carers or older siblings.
- Enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials in an enjoyable way to a maximum of two class related tasks per week.
- In Years may include multiplication tables and spelling.
- Generally, not exceed 30 minutes a day, five days per week.
- Not be set for holidays or weekends but can be done on weekends if this suits the family.
- Unfinished class work may be included.

Year 5 & Year 6

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.

Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading and may include extension assignments, class work, essays and research.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

Homework:

- Should include daily independent reading, tables & spelling.
- May include extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research and other tasks to a maximum of three class related tasks per week.
- Allotted homework time is flexible and should not exceed 45 minutes per day if managed efficiently. It should not be set for holidays or weekends but can be done on weekends if this suits the family.

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.

The school acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise of reading, practice exercises or extension assignments].

The school will 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

Teachers will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy

- develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children.

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing with their parents/carers the 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.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children 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
- 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
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

Support for Students, Parents/Carers

Teachers understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to their class teacher or Year Level Coordinator.

Further Information & Resources

- School Policy and Advisory Library
 - Homework

Reference:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/homework>

Please refer also to the school's *Curriculum Programs Foundation – Year 10 Policy*.

Review Cycle

- This policy, first developed in this format in May 2019 and updated in September 2020, will be reviewed as part of the school's three-yearly review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update mid-June 2020).

A mandatory policy

Approval No Longer Required

but consultation with School Council is recommended