

Homework Policy



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Hillsmeade Primary School on (03) 9704 6313 or hillsmeade.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Hillsmeade Primary 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 Hillsmeade Primary School.

RATIONALE

Hillsmeade Primary 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 newly acquired 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
- taking into consideration the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle as stipulated by the Department of Education & Training (DET).

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

At Hillsmeade Primary School all homework set by teachers will be:

- purposeful
- curriculum-aligned
- appropriate to students' skill level and/or 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.

Recognising that families lead diverse lifestyles, homework tasks may require 3-4 nights attention over the course of a 7 day period and may include:

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| Prep – Year 2 | - a range of activities from lists provided by the school and promoted by DET to support the development of English and mathematical skills. |
| Year 3 – Year 4 | - tasks that consolidate and extend class learning (generally 10-20 minutes per session). |

Year 5 – Year 6

- tasks that consolidate and extend learning in class, which may include research or projects (generally 15-25 minutes per session).

The types of homework that teachers at Hillsmeade Primary School may include are:

- undertaking a range of tasks as prescribed by the DET and HPS to support the development of English and mathematical knowledge
- independent reading
- regular reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings
- preparing show and tell
- practising spelling words
- use of students' personalised Maths Platform - *MyNumeracy* to practice maths skills and build knowledge.
- Science/Humanities based projects
- practising sports skills
- 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
 - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

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 Hillsmeade Primary 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 Hillsmeade Primary School** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and/or 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)
- acknowledge 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.

- Homework will not be provided for students who are withdrawn from school for extended family holidays during the term. Students will be encouraged to read regularly and may keep a diary of their holiday to share with the class on their return.

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, and recreational and cultural activities.

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 aspects of the homework provided
- 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/carers

Hillsmeade Primary 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:

- Provided to staff at induction and included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Made available publicly on our school website
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Homework](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	1-3-22
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	Before March 2026