



HOMEWORK

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Footscray North Primary School's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

SCOPE

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

POLICY

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.

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 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.
- 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.

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.

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
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- ensuring that upper primary students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

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's learning.

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 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.

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
- ensuring upper primary 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
- 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 AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - [Homework Guidelines](#)
 - [Homework Expectations](#)

Please refer also to the school's *Curriculum Framework Policy*.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was developed in January 2019 and will be reviewed as part of the school's three-yearly review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update early October 2018).

This policy was ratified by School Council 25/3/2019

Reference:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/homework.aspx