



PRIMARY SCHOOL - HOMEWORK POLICY

Reviewed: 04/06/2019

Next Review: 30/10/2021

Recommended Review: 2-3 years

Recommended Communication: School Website, Compass

DET POLICY

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

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

POLICY

Doncaster Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers at Doncaster Primary School 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, spelling practice exercises, project work, Mathletics tasks, Reading Eggs tasks and where appropriate extension tasks.

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, spelling practice exercises Mathletics tasks, Reading Eggs tasks and writing tasks. There may be project work specific to each level, such as VIP in Prep and Grade 1.

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.

Year 5 to 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 spelling practice exercises, Mathematics tasks, writing tasks and project work.

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.

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.

Doncaster Primary 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 during Class Open Day as well as advising the location of the policy (Compass and Dps Website)
- 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 at Doncaster Primary School 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 with 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 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
- 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 and carers

Teachers at Doncaster Primary School 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 classroom teachers, Year Level Coordinator.

Doncaster Primary School has in place a number of learning programs that students may attend before or after school or during lunchtimes to assist with particular areas of need or interest, including:

- Homework Club Thursday 3:30-3:45
 - Level 6 offer Lunchtime Homework Club twice a week
- Other Special interest clubs offered on Thursday from 3:30-4:30 are:**
- STEM Club
 - Puzzle Club
 - Drawing Club
 - Arts and Crafts Club
 - Dance and Fitness Club
 - Soccer Club
 - Performing Arts Club
- Other learning opportunities offered are:**
- GATEWAYS
 - State Schools Spectacular
 - Australian Boys Choir/Australian Girls Choir
 - Science Competitions
 - Public Speaking Competition

Students may be referred to programs by their teacher in consultation with their parents/carers. For more information about these programs, please contact your classroom teacher.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

School Policy and Advisory Guide:

- [Homework Guidelines](#)
- [Homework Expectations](#)

REVIEW CYCLE: This policy was last updated on 04/06/19 and is scheduled for review on 06/2021

