

# HOMEWORK POLICY



## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure Tarneit Rise 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).

### **Prep to Year 2**

In the early years the objective of homework is 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:

- Be consistent across the Professional Learning Community (PLC) and aligned to teaching sequences
- mainly consist of daily reading to, with and by parents/carers/siblings and reading log/journal entries
- 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

Homework may:

- enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information for class related tasks
- include tasks to build mathematical fluency and spelling
- include unfinished class work or work to support the attainment of goals in Individual Education Plans

### **Year 3-6**

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 will:

- Be consistent across the PLC and aligned to teaching sequences
- include daily independent reading and reading log/journal entries
- generally not exceed 45 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

Homework may:

- include extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research
- Include unfinished class work or work to support the attainment of Individual Education Plans
- Include tasks to build mathematical fluency and spelling

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

- 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

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
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- 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's learning.

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

- 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, 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 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
- 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 interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents are concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, they are encouraged to speak to the class teacher or the PLC leader.

## Evaluation

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

<u>Ratification</u>	<u>Review Date</u>	<u>Policy Number</u>	<u>Version Number</u>	<u>Date Produced</u>
Sept 2020	2023	42	3	Sept 2017

### Reference:

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

### Further information and resources

School Policy and Advisory Guide:

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