



HOMEWORK

Rationale

- The Department is committed to providing an evidence-based approach to improving student learning and is currently reviewing its Homework Guidelines. The guidelines will be informed by current national and international research.
- School Councils are responsible for developing and publishing a homework policy in partnership with the Principal and teachers and after consulting with parents and students. The school-level homework policy should be consistent with DET Homework Guidelines.
- Homework should be:
 - appropriate to the student's skill level and age
 - purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
 - interesting, challenging and when appropriate open ended
 - assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided
 - balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- The Guidelines provide a framework to help schools engage their communities when reviewing their existing homework policies.

Policy Statement

Purpose

- To improve student learning outcomes.
- To ensure that the school complies with DET policy and guidelines.
- To ensure that the school sets homework that supports educational requirements.

Implementation

- The School Council will develop and publish a homework policy.
- The school will provide parents with a copy of the school's homework policy.
- The school will follow up with parents/guardians if a student regularly fails to complete homework.
- The school will work with parents/guardians to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.
- Year 5 – 6 students will complete homework diaries to enhance communication between school and home. Diaries may be electronic.
- Parents and teachers will be expected to check and sign student diaries on a weekly basis.
- Homework may include:
 - practice exercises – reading for pleasure, practicing spelling words, writing essays, completing exercises in Maths
 - preparatory work – collecting newspaper articles, researching topics, reading background material
 - extension assignments – writing a book review, researching local news, finding material on the internet, making an art work
- Homework may also involve practising a musical instrument or physical education skills.
- In accordance with successful practice,



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- in Foundation (Prep) – Year 4, homework should consist largely of reading and may extend to class work and classroom projects including Spelling, Writing and Mathematics.
- in Years 5 – 6, homework should include independent reading and may extend class work and classroom projects including Spelling, Writing and Mathematics.
- Homework will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day in Foundation – Year 4, 45 minutes in Years 5 – 6 or be set during weekends or vacations.
- Homework can be negotiated in accordance to individual needs of students.
- Individual Learning Improvement Plans may replace homework where required.
- Teachers can help students with their homework by:
 - setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
 - helping students establish a home study routine
 - giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
 - assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
 - making effective use of homework diaries for upper primary and secondary students
 - coordinating the allocation of homework by different teachers in secondary schools
 - helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
 - ensuring that students have good information skills
 - ensuring parents and carers are aware of the school's homework policy
 - developing strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework.
- Parents and guardians can help by
 - providing an appropriate environment where homework can be completed;
 - encouraging a regular daily time to examine and complete homework;
 - discussing key questions or suggest resources to help with homework;
 - asking how homework and class work is progressing and acknowledge success;
 - attending school events, productions or displays your child is involved in;
 - talking to teachers to discuss problems with homework;
 - discussing homework with children in their first language (if English is not the main language spoken at home).
- Students are expected to
 - complete homework to the best of their ability;
 - complete homework by the due date;
 - demonstrate responsibility for self-learning e.g. seeking clarification and assistance where required.



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Version Control

September 2014

March 2015

DEECD to DET and review date change

August 2015

Content changes

Ratified 16/3/16

Review Cycle

Three-year review cycle (therefore 2017) or if guidelines change (latest DET update early September 2014).

Three-year review cycle (therefore 2018) or if guidelines change (latest DET update early September 2014).

Three-year review cycle (therefore 2018) or if guidelines change (latest DET update late June).

2019

Reference

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