



HOMEWORK POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure Altona Primary School adopts a consistent approach to homework and at-home learning, in order to reinforce skills and habits of learning and to encourage students to be responsible for their own learning.

SCOPE

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

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. This policy will be communicated to families on the school website and at information sessions for parents.

Altona Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students. Teachers at Altona 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 reading, practice exercises or extension assignments.

At Altona Primary School we offer homework to:

- complement and reinforce classroom learning;
- foster good lifelong learning and study habits;
- provide an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning;
- develop self-regulation processes such as goal setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection and time management;
- support partnerships with parents by connecting families with the learning of their children.

Homework should be:

- Balanced in terms of demands between study and recreational, family and cultural activities;
- Purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum;
- Scaffolded and appropriate to each student's level of development;
- Scheduled and communicated in a timely manner to parents.

All students are to be allocated homework that encourages the practising of skills taught in the class.

- Reading will form part of each child's homework routine, levelled text for reading practice, and a variety of books for reading enjoyment;
- Regular Numeracy written problems/number fact practice will form part of the homework for students;
- Each set task will be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to support the current classroom learning program;
- It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.

Suggested time allocations

Prep-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.



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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 5-6:

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 extension assignments, class work, essays and research.

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.

Altona Primary School – Homework Expectations

Year Level	Expectations
Prep	Reading
Year One	Reading and Mathletics
Year Two	Reading and Mathletics or Specific learning areas practise in 1 area = tasks/extensions
Year Three	Reading Specific learning areas practise in 1 area = tasks/extensions
Year Four	Reading Specific learning areas practise in 1 area = tasks/extensions
Year Five	Reading Goal Setting practise connected to classroom work Classroom finishing work
Year Six	Reading Goal Setting practise connected to classroom work Classroom finishing work

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.

Altona 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 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.



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Teachers at Altona 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 in 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/carer's 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 Altona 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 the classroom teacher.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Related School Policies

- Curriculum Framework Policy

Related DET Resources



HOMWORK POLICY

- [Homework Expectations](#)
- [Homework Guidelines](#)
- [DET homework guidelines for descriptions and examples of each type](#)

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The school will monitor the effectiveness of homework through Parent surveys and from parental feedback during Student/ Parent/ Teacher Conferences. Consultation with the school community is recommended if the Homework Policy changes.