

## *Homework Policy*



### **Overview**

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. It is also a feature of the Flemington Primary School You Can Do It program, reinforcing strategies such as organization, persistence and resilience.

### **Principles**

- Homework is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.
- Parents should be advised of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and be provided with a copy of the school's homework policy.
- Students need to be aware of the value and uses of homework as a means to assist in their learning.
- Students benefit from completing homework regularly. Homework helps them develop organisational and time-management skills, self discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and personal responsibility for learning.
- Upper primary students should use diaries. Diaries provide a means of regular communication between parents and the school.
- Failure by students to complete homework on a regular basis should be followed up with parents.
- Teachers should show consideration, when setting or assessing homework, to the level of assistance some students may have access to at home.

### **Aims**

#### **At Flemington Primary School, homework:**

- enables students to revise skills learned at school.
- enables students to work on tasks that are appropriate to their skill and age level.
- allows students to be involved in meaningful and relevant tasks.
- Encourages and supports students in upper grades develop research and report writing skills and personal organizational skills.
- provides opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning program.

## **Guidelines**

**In the Early Years {Prep-2}, homework should not be seen as a chore. Homework will:**

- enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials eg spelling, handwriting, diary writing
- consist mainly of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings.

This will generally range from 20 - 30 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during vacations.

**In Years 3-4, homework will include:**

- should include daily reading: independent and shared with an adult
- spelling, number facts practise
- may include completion, extension or revision of class work, open-ended tasks, projects and assignments, essays and research.
- 

This will generally be about 30 minutes a day

**In the Middle Years (Years 5 and 6), homework:**

- should include daily independent reading
- spelling, number facts, maths revision,
- may include completion, extension or revision of class work, open-ended tasks, projects and assignments, essays and research.

This will generally range from 30 – 45 minutes a day at Year 5 and 6

In the senior school, grades 3-6 there are expectations that all students will complete and hand in their homework tasks on time, and that there are consequences for those who don't. It is important that parents support the teachers and students in their efforts to accomplish this. It is vital that students take greater responsibility if their homework is not submitted by speaking to the teacher concerned.

At the beginning of each school, Class teachers will discuss homework issues, homework expectations and be provided with a copy of the school's homework policy.

## **Types of homework:**

Homework should be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open ended
- balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

\*\*opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics (eg. memorisation of tables)
- practising spelling words
- reading for pleasure
- writing essays and other creative tasks
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising physical education skills.

\*\* opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:

- reading background material for Integrated Studies topics
- reading English texts for class discussion
- researching topics for class work
- collecting newspaper articles
- revising information about a current topic.

Extension assignments — encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:

- writing a book review
- making or designing an art work
- completing Science investigation exercises
- researching local news
- finding material on the Internet
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation;
- sighting and signing homework,
- being positive and supportive,
- encouraging students to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework;
- setting an example by reading themselves;
- helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources.
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities;
- discussing homework in their first language, where English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to their previous experiences,

## **Holidays**

Students who are absent for extended periods due to family holidays will not be supplied with extra homework by the classroom teacher.

The school recommends the keeping of a diary and daily reading.

Ratified by School Council 2006