



# HOMWORK POLICY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the Principal on 9842 3373

## PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Donvale Primary School's policy requirements relating to homework.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Donvale Primary School.

## RATIONALE

Donvale Primary School has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- providing opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge
- providing opportunities for students to prepare for future lessons
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

## DEFINITIONS

**Homework** is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

## POLICY

At Donvale Primary School all homework set by teachers will be:

- purposeful
- curriculum-aligned
- appropriate to students' skill level and age
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- monitored by the teacher
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

The types of homework that teachers at Donvale primary School may include:

- reading for pleasure
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- researching topics associated with set class work
- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- practising spelling words
- completing science investigation exercises
- revising/preparing for tests
- applying new skills to home context such as:
  - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
  - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
  - growing plants
  - reviewing their favourite film or book
  - writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
  - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
  - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

### **Foundation**

Homework may consist of:

- Daily reading of take home book, approximately 10-15 minutes a day
- Reading to be recorded in the Home Reading Log every day and will be returned each day in the blue pouch
- Practicing letter and sound knowledge
- Preparation of Show and Tell presentations

### **Years 1 – 2**

Homework may consist of:

- Daily reading of take-home book, approximately 10-15mins a day
- Reading to be recorded in the Home Reading Log every day and will be returned to school each day in the blue pouch
- Daily practise of spelling words
- Integrated Project/Speaking & Listening task alternately each term
- Each teacher will inform their class (and the parents) when their homework is due.
- Homework (in addition to reading) should generally not exceed 30 minutes twice a week.

### **Years 3 – 4**

Homework may consist of:

- Reading with parents and independent reading (minimum of 20 minutes per night)
- Spelling practice (LSCWC)
- Diaries – record reading every night
- Integrated Studies – reinforcement or enrichment tasks
- Homework in addition to reading should not exceed 30 minutes per day and no more than 4 times a week.

### **Years 5 – 6**

Homework may consist of:

- 20 minutes of independent reading each night (to be recorded in school diary)
- Complete a written maths activity as set by the teacher
- Literacy choice board or response task
- Excluding independent reading, homework should not exceed 30 minutes per day

## **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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Donvale Primary School** are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Donvale Primary School** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning (so, they are not 'busy work' or where students 'finish off' work they did/could not complete in class)
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback
- ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- 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 and part-time employment (for older students).

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking homework to:
  - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had
  - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
  - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

## SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Donvale Primary School understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/carers are concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage parents/carers to speak to their child's teacher.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023
Consultation	Parents – Homework survey Oct 2023 Staff – Oct 2023 School Council – November 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	September 2026