



Homework

Policy

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This policy was last ratified by School Council on 10/9/18

Rationale:

Homework is an opportunity for strengthening the link between home and school. It gives the parents a chance to be involved in their child's learning. Parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish good study routines from early primary school as directed by the Department of Education and Training. Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning.

Aims:

Homework helps students by:

- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- providing an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning
- developing self-regulation processes such as goal-setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection and time management
- supporting partnerships with parents by connecting families with the learning of their children
- foster a sense of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare students for future study.

Implementation:

Implementation of homework policy involves:

- communication between teachers, students and parents/carers to ensure expectations are understood by all parties
- relates homework activity to what is taught in the classroom
- sets up an element of challenge in the homework to be set
- a variety of tasks being offered to cater for different learning styles and abilities.

Organisation within the School:

Homework will be set throughout the school with consideration of the following criteria:

- enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials
- mainly consist of daily reading to, with and by parents/caregivers or older siblings
- generally not exceed 30 minutes a day and not be set on school holidays

When setting homework tasks for students, teachers will provide opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce acquired skills, such as:

- reading for pleasure
- practising spelling words
- practising physical education skills
- writing essays and other creative tasks
- practising and playing musical instruments
- completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics
- practising words/phrases learnt in LOTE.

Teachers will encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively through extension exercises such as:

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

Homework Expectations:

Prep to Grade 6 homework consists of compulsory and optional tasks in a scaffolded matrix model

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
- balanced with a range of recreational, family, well-being, mindfulness and cultural activities.

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- reading daily
- returning signed homework matrix by the nominated day
- being aware of the School's Homework Policy
- discussing with their parents/caregivers 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.

Parents and caregivers can support their child by:

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation
- observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing
- helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- contacting the class teacher to discuss any problems their child is experiencing in order to complete set homework
- encouraging their child to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework
- 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 groups.

Mt Eliza 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 be informed about the Homework Policy through school website
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment.

Teachers can support students by:

- equipping students with the skills to solve problems
- encouraging real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities

- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensuring parents/carers are aware of the School's Homework Policy
- developing strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in homework
- offering a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning
- acknowledging students' effort to complete homework with positive reinforcement.

Resources:

- Homework books
- Homework matrix with compulsory and optional tasks included

Evaluation:

The school homework approach should be informed by a shared understanding and be regularly monitored through feedback from teachers, students, parents/carers and the school council as appropriate.

This policy will be reviewed as part of MEPS two year review cycle

References:

DET SCHOOL POLICY AND ADVISORY GUIDE

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx>

School Council President: Kimberly Davidson

Signature:

Date: