



# DONVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## HOMEWORK POLICY

### **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**

Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning while developing sound study habits and time management skills, providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. It needs to be challenging, meaningful and relevant, catering to all levels of intelligence and individual learning styles.

Homework also provides an opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education, gain a greater awareness of their child's skills and understandings, and to extend and complement the partnership between school and home. While homework is an important component of the teaching and learning process, we acknowledge that it is important for students to have time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

### **DEFINITIONS**

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

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

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. Teachers must set homework tasks that reflect work done in their class and fit within this policy. Team Leaders will ensure that homework implementation is consistent throughout their level. Key implementation steps include the following.

- Homework activity relates to the school's curriculum and the current class program.
- Elements of challenge to be incorporated in the set homework.
- Individualised homework activities/plans are aligned with individualised learning styles and abilities, not requiring excessive assistance from parents.
- Links homework activities with prompt, appropriate assessment and feedback.
- Parents/carers and teachers will work together to foster the student's personal responsibility and the development of productive routines and attitudes towards homework.
- Teachers will make their homework expectations clear, and set reasonable time lines for completion.
- Students in Years 5 and 6 will be expected to use diaries regularly to record their homework requirements.
- Parents/carers should communicate with the teacher any concerns about homework expectations and their child's approach to homework.
- Failure to meet homework requirements will result in appropriate consequences.
- It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.

### **Foundation**

Homework may consist of:

- Reading each night
- M100W word practice during the week
- Record of progress and communication (via Home Reading Log) between the teacher and the parent to be kept regularly and returned to school each day.
- Homework (Reading) should generally not exceed 10-15 minutes a day.

### **Years 1 – 2**

Homework may consist of:

- Daily reading of take-home book to parent (10-15 minutes a day)
- Daily practise of spelling words
- Assigned tasks may include online activities – Reading Eggs/Mathletics
- 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 – Resilience Project activities
- Integrated Studies – reinforcement or enrichment tasks
- Homework in addition to reading should not exceed 30 minutes per day and no more than 3 times a week.

## **Years 5 – 6**

Homework may consist of:

- 20 minutes of independent reading each night (to be recorded in school diary)
- 3 Mathletics tasks each week, set on Monday and due the following Monday
- 1 research-based mini-project based on our Integrated topic, set on Monday and due the following Monday
- Excluding independent reading, homework should not exceed 30 minutes per day

Students who do not complete homework by the due date will be asked to join 'Homework Club', where they will spend half of Monday's lunch.

## **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
- 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,
- 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.

## **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)
- [DPS Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy 2018](#)

## **REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION**

Date Implemented:	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
Author:	Education Sub-Committee
Approved By:	School Council
Responsible for Review:	Principal/Assistant Principal
Review Date:	3 years