

HOMEWORK POLICY

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

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

RATIONALE

Mount Martha 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 Mount Martha 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.

Prep to 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.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day.

Year 5 to Year 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.

The types of homework that teachers at Mount Martha Primary School will include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- completing inquiry investigations
- making or designing an artwork
- practising spelling words
- reading take home books.
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work.
- talk homework for big writes.
- 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.

SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students, and their parents/carers. To get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Mount Martha 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.

Teachers at Mount Martha 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.

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.
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history, and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations, and community

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Mount Martha 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 (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff handbook/manual.
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings.
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions.
- Discussed at student forums.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2023
Consultation	School Council 10 th August 2023
Approved by	Principal Karen Walker
Next scheduled review date	August 2026