



## Homework Policy

### BACKGROUND

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The current evidence and research shows that the quality of homework assigned is likely to be more important than the quantity. Research has established that homework has a positive effect on learning, particularly at the middle and secondary school levels (Xu, 2010; Zimmerman & Kitsantas, 2005). Although homework's effectiveness has been challenged by educators, parents, and students (Kohn, 2006), it continues to be an important educational supplement used by most teachers to enhance the learning experience of their students (Patall, Cooper, & Wynn, 2010). Overall, the effectiveness of homework is enhanced by providing students with choices among homework tasks, which will result in higher motivational and performance outcomes, students' autonomy, and intrinsic motivation (Patall et al., 2010).

Homework helps students by:

- Complementing and reinforcing classroom learning
- 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

### PURPOSE

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As part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools, homework is seen as one way of supporting and fostering life-long learning and connecting families with the learning of their children.

### IMPLEMENTATION

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At Hurstbridge Primary School it is expected that each child from Foundation to Grade 6 will undertake homework and that it will form part of their weekly learning routine. The table below describes quality homework practice for the different year levels.

Year level	Expected activities
Foundation (prep)-grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings (daily)</li><li>• Recording of reading (daily)</li><li>• Practise reading and writing of appropriate MIOOW list (2-3xweekly)</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practise appropriate skills/activities from Words Their Way (WTW) program (2-3xweekly)</li> <li>• Appropriate practise of mathematical knowledge/skills (2-3xweekly)</li> <li>• Extension of class work by practising skills or gathering of extra information or materials (occasionally)</li> </ul>
Grade 3 and 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings (daily)</li> <li>• Recording of reading (daily)</li> <li>• Practise appropriate skills/activities from Words Their Way (WTW) program (3xweekly)</li> <li>• Appropriate practise of mathematical knowledge/skills (3xweekly)</li> <li>• Extension of class work by practising skills or gathering of extra information or materials (once term)</li> </ul>
Grade 5 and 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent reading (daily)</li> <li>• Recording of reading (daily)</li> <li>• Practise appropriate skills/activities from Words Their Way (WTW) program (daily)</li> <li>• Appropriate practise of mathematical knowledge/skills (daily)</li> <li>• Extension of class work, projects and assignments, and research. (up to 2-3xterm)</li> </ul>

Individualised homework activities/plans, aligned with individual learning plans (ILPs) and abilities will be given priority and may serve to replace any or all of the above guidelines. Classroom teachers will monitor the completion of homework. Completion may be encouraged through the use of a rewards/incentive program.

As a main goal of homework is to foster a sense of self-discipline and responsibility, punishment for non-completed homework is to be avoided.

Grade 5 and 6 students are expected to use homework diaries to provide regular communication between parents and the school. The class teacher in consultation with parent/guardian will follow up habitual non-completion of set tasks where appropriate strategies to encourage completion will be formulated.

## **EVALUATION**

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This policy shall be reviewed as part of the cyclical review process or as deemed appropriate according to DET requirements.