

# HOMEWORK POLICY

## PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department of Education and Training's and Sandringham East 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 Sandringham East Primary School. **'Homework'** is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

## RATIONALE

Sandringham East Primary School understands that homework tasks benefit students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good study habits, providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning and connecting families with the learning of their children. Homework can support, reinforce, consolidate and extend classroom learning. Homework can help students to develop positive study and organisational habits, time management skills, responsibility for their learning and self discipline.

Sandringham East Primary School has developed this Homework Policy 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.

## IMPLEMENTATION

At Sandringham East 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 Sandringham East Primary School will be varied and could include:

- consolidation exercises for mathematics
- investigation exercises for science and humanities
- practising spelling words
- reading English texts based on a particular topic relating to classroom learning
- reading for pleasure of fiction and/or non-fiction texts
- researching topics associated with set class work

- revising/preparing for tests and/or assessment tasks
- work relating to specialist classes, such as making or designing an artwork, practising and playing musical instruments, physical exercise, or practising a language other than English
- 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.

All students will be allocated communication diaries to record their learning at home and enhance school-home communication. At a minimum, daily home reading will be recorded in the diary by the parent or student.

### Expectations for Foundation – Level 2

For students in Foundation – Level 2, homework will consist mainly of:

- reading to, with and by parents, and
- daily independent reading if appropriate (dependant on child's reading proficiency)
- daily practise of spelling words relating to the week's learning focus

Homework might also routinely include:

- extension tasks associated with classroom activities.
- gathering of additional information or materials for projects
- Mathletics, Literacy Planet and/or similar online programs or apps

Set homework tasks will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day and will not be set on weekends or during vacation periods.

### Expectations for Levels 3 – 6

For students in Levels 3 – 6, homework will consist mainly of:

- daily independent reading
- tasks relating to the completion of classroom learning and research
- practising literacy and numeracy skills relating to classroom learning

Homework might also routinely include:

- gathering of additional information or materials for projects such as Educational Research Projects (ERPs)
- Mathletics and/or similar online programs or apps

Set homework tasks will generally not exceed 45 minutes per day, will not be set on weekends or during vacation periods, and must be coordinated between teachers to avoid excessive workload.

## **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 THE SCHOOL'S LEADERSHIP TEAM 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
- support the implementation of the homework policy.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR TEACHERS 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

## 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 FAMILIES

Sandringham East 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. If, after speaking with your child's teacher, your concerns remain, please contact the Principal to discuss how we can support you and your child with regards to homework.

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

[Homework – Department Policy](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This policy was last review in **September 2021** and approval by School Council.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the regular policy review cycle every **3-4 years**.