

Homework Policy

Written by	<i>Principal</i>
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Rationale

Homework assists students by complementing and reinforcing classroom programs, fostering *commitment* towards lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be *responsible* for their learning.

Definition

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

Aims

- To develop positive study habits
- To support and extend classroom learning
- To provide an opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education
- To foster **independence** and **responsibility** in children

Implementation

- The school's homework policy will be available to all parents via the school's website
- Classroom teachers will set homework tasks that are relevant, meaningful and purposeful to the current classroom
- Homework tasks will be monitored with appropriate support provided by teachers
- Homework will not be set during vacation periods

Teachers at Mount Eliza North Primary School are encouraged to exercise discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise of reading, writing, mathematics, preview learning tasks and unit of inquiry based tasks.

Foundation to Year 2

In the Junior School, 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 Middle School.

Students are expected to read daily to, with, or by parents/ carers.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 20 minutes of homework per day.

Year 3 & 4

In the Middle School, the objective of homework is to further develop the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the Senior School.

Students are expected to read daily to, with, or by parents/ carers, or independently to themselves.

Assigned homework tasks will activate prior learning and/ or build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to take action by gathering additional information or materials.

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

Year 5 & 6

In the Senior School, 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 tasks, which activate prior learning and/ or build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to take action by gathering additional information or materials. Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day.

Mount Eliza North Primary School will support students by:

- Fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of the children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum
- Ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- Advising parents/carers of the homework policy via the school website
- Encouraging parents/carers to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- Ensuring the Year 5 & 6 students use homework diaries as an organisational tool and a mode of communication between parents and the school

Teachers at Mount Eliza North Primary School will:

- Equip students with the skills to solve problems
- Encourage real-life problems solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- Align homework with the Victorian Curriculum
- Set varied 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
- 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

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/carers homework expectations
- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- 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 where possible by:

- Developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- Ensuring there is a balance between time spent on homework and recreational activities
- Reading to them, talking to 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
- Ensuring Year 5 & 6 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
- Ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their home tasks

Teachers at Mount Eliza North Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to their teacher.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.