



## HIGHVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# 27. Homework Policy

### Rationale:

Homework is one way of supporting and fostering life-long learning and connecting families with the learning of their children.

At Highvale, we acknowledge that homework needs to take into consideration the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, sport and recreation and cultural pursuits as well as study.

### Aims:

Homework should:

- complement and reinforce classroom learning
- foster good lifelong learning and study habits
- provide an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning
- be informed by the emphasis within the broad developmental stages of the **Victorian Curriculum**. These being:
  - **Foundation stage (Years Prep–2)**
  - **Breadth stage (Years 3–8)**

### Implementation:

Homework at Highvale:

Is grounded in our whole school developmental approach, to complement classroom, curriculum and independent student learning goals. Teachers are cognisant of the importance of feedback to students about their work at home. Where appropriate, we will draw upon the opportunities presented through technology to enhance timely feedback to students at home.

Homework at Highvale includes an emphasis on daily reading for pleasure and purpose. The volume and complexity of homework and the time required to complete it will increase as the child progresses into higher year levels.

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. Completion of Homework is the student's responsibility.

Additional Homework tasks may be made available to individual students, at the teacher's discretion and in consultation with the family.

### **Prep to Year 2**

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 students for Year 3&4.

**Homework will be set each Monday** and will be due for completion on the following Friday, allowing 4 school evenings for completion.

The focus of homework will be consistency, through daily reading to, with, or by parents/carers. Practise of mathematics skills, spelling and handwriting skills will be introduced as required.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 25 minutes of homework per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

#### **Year 3 and 4**

In the middle primary years, practise and consolidation of the concepts that have been introduced during class time remains the focus. The emphasis on self-discipline and responsibility is continued.

**Homework will be set each Monday fortnight** and will be due for completion on the second following Friday, allowing 9 school evenings for completion.

The focus of homework will be consistency, through daily reading to, with, or by parents/carers. Practise of mathematics skills and word study will be introduced as required.

Where appropriate, students may be introduced to homework tasks which require them to build on concepts explored in the classroom. For example, a Science or Humanities task where students are encouraged to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials. Homework may include the completion of unfinished class work.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

#### **Year 5 and 6**

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to amplify the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.

**Homework will be set each Monday fortnight** and will be due for completion on the second following Friday, allowing 9 school evenings for completion.

Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading, however we encourage reading aloud to and with a parent at least once per week. Homework will also include the practise of mathematics skills and word study. It may include extension assignments, class work, essays and research. Homework may include the completion of unfinished class work.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

#### **Highvale Primary School will support students by:**

- 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 a copy of the homework policy on the school website.
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- require Year 3,4,5,6 primary students to use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

#### **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
- following up on feedback
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time with the assistance of parents to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

### **Supporting Homework Success at Home**

Parents/carers can help students with their homework by:

- promoting a positive and productive approach to homework
- encouraging a regular daily session to complete homework
- helping to balance the time spent between homework and recreational activities
- providing a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks
- reading regularly to and with your child
- listening regularly to your child read and discussing your child's responses to set texts
- ensuring Year 3,4,5, 6 students keep a homework diary
- asking how homework and class work is progressing, viewing it and acknowledging success
- discussing homework with your child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- attending and discussing the school events, productions or performances your child is involved in
- linking homework and other learning tasks to the families' culture, history, language and everyday life.

Related Legislation:

The following guidelines are provided by The Department of Education and Training (DET).

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx>

### **Responsibility and Evaluation:**

This policy was last updated May 2019 and is scheduled for review in 2023.