

HOMEWORK POLICY

Pascoe Vale Primary School

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Pascoe Vale Primary School's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting homework.

POLICY

Pascoe Vale Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers at Pascoe Vale Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise such things as reading, spelling, practice exercises or extension assignments.

Prep to Year 4

In the early years, the objective of homework is 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 the upper grades.

Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and may encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.

Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents, carers 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 may include daily independent reading and may also include extension assignments, class work, essays and research.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework.

Shared expectations and responsibilities

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

Pascoe Vale 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 Curriculum Guidelines
- 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 Pascoe Vale 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 students' learning needs
- give students time to complete homework, with consideration to home obligations and extracurricular activities
- provide timely and practical feedback and support for homework as deemed necessary
- 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 with 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/carers 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, 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 their children, 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 homework
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- ensuring upper primary students keep a homework diary as provided by the school and class teachers
- 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 homework tasks.

Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Pascoe Vale Primary School understand that students have varied learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. The school will provide homework regularly. Teachers are available to explain and support homework implementation and to meet with parents by appointment. If you are concerned that your child may not understand 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 the class teacher or team leader.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - Homework Guidelines
 - Homework Expectations

Department of Education Statement:

Value of Homework:

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 experiences of their students. (Patall, Cooper, & Wynn, 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

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 29th July 2019 and is scheduled for review in June 2022.