



Fawkner Primary School

Homework Policy - 2021

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Fawkner 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 Fawkner Primary School.

RATIONALE

Fawkner Primary School has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the school council 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.

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

Our goal at Fawkner Primary School do what is best for the students and their families.

Ideally we would like every child to be able to complete some reading at home and some other work that may help them with their schoolwork. However we appreciate that every child is different, every family is different and everyone's circumstances are different. The school understands that some children thoroughly enjoy doing extra work at home, while others have other interests that mean they struggle to complete extra work. Therefore we feel that the amount of homework done at home by any child is a decision for the family.

It is also our school's belief that all of our students work very hard at school, and that some children will have lots of energy and enthusiasm to do more work, while others will need a rest from school work to re-charge their batteries. Others will just feel uncomfortable doing extra work.. The school understands that each child's parents know their child and their home circumstances best and therefore the parents know how much homework is right for their child.

Homework will be provided by teachers to support families who wish to work with their children at home, however it is not compulsory. If a child does not complete any or all of the homework given to them that is fine. Whatever homework a student completes will be corrected and feedback given to the student.

If homework is not done, children will not be treated any differently. They will not be punished, they will not be kept in at recess or lunchtime to do it and they will not be made to feel they are disappointing their teachers.

We also recognise that when students begin secondary school they are likely to be given an increased amount of homework, and we believe that part of our role is to help the student prepare for this increase in homework load.

The school believes that it is not part of our role to tell parents what they should do at home, but rather we should work together to help each child achieve their best and to be ready for the next phase of their education. At the commencement of each year teachers and parents are asked to agree on the homework requirements at the first Parent Teacher meeting, usually held in March.

Foundation	Years 1 & 2	Years 3 & 4	Years 5 & 6
No more than 30 minutes total per day	No more than 30 minutes total per day	No more than 30 minutes total per day	No more than 45 minutes total per day
Home Reading	Home Reading	Home Reading	Home Reading
Foundation Bag – literacy & numeracy activities – taken home by students in turns	English or Literacy Bag	Word Study	
	Maths or Numeracy Bag	Maths* and/or Topic based task	Maths* Topic based work as required

*Where online tasks are set (e.g. Essential Assessment), suitable alternatives will be set for children without online access.

At Fawkner 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 Fawkner Primary School will include are:

Practice Exercises such as

- reading for pleasure
- practising spelling words
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English
- practising Maths skills that have been taught in class

Preparation for learning in class such as

- collecting newspaper articles about a topic
- researching topics associated with set class work

- revising/preparing for tests
- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics

Extension tasks such as

- Writing a book review
- Researching local news
- Monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

- completing science investigation exercises
- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising sports skills
- reading background material for a subject
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- revising/preparing for tests
- 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.

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 **leaders at Fawkner Primary School** 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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Fawkner Primary School** 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 and part-time employment (for older students).

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 PARENTS/CARERS

Fawkner 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.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

Policy last reviewed	August 2021
Approved by	School Council (15 September 2021)
Next scheduled review date	August 2024