



Thomastown Primary School

HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONALE

Homework should be interesting, relevant to classroom activities and should consolidate skills learnt at school. Children need to succeed with homework; it should not be frustrating for them or their parents.

AIMS

- 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.

GUIDELINES

At Thomastown 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.

POLICY

Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings. 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.

Foundation, Grade 1 and Grade 2	Grade 3 to Grade 6
<p>Children's main homework activity consists of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings.</p> <p>The following activities may be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Practising sight and spelling words for five or ten minutes.● Reading texts for pleasure – separate to texts sent home for nightly reading.● Students have access to paid subscriptions (Reading Eggs and Mathletics) for self directed learning.	<p>Children's main homework activity consists of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings.</p> <p>The following activities may be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Memorisation of mathematical times tables and practising spelling words.● Reading for pleasure – material can include newspapers, magazines, cartoons or own creative work.● Review or reinforce new mathematical knowledge through the use of the Mathletics Program (each child has access to this program all year).

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 Thomastown 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.
- ensure consistency of homework expectations at each year level, according to T.P.S Homework Policy

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Thomastown 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.
- adhere to the agreed T.P.S Homework Policy and expectations for their grade level.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- 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:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- 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

Thomastown 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.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

A 2014 Victorian Parliament inquiry into the approaches to homework in the state's schools revealed a general agreement that homework at the primary school level actually has little impact on students' academic performance (*Inquiry into the approaches to homework in Victorian schools* Victorian Parliament 2014).

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	28 th July 2022
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date will be 4 years from last review	July 2026