

## Homework Policy

### Background

At Huntingdale Primary School we recognise that homework related to school activities benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. It is an opportunity for parents to help and be cooperatively involved in their child's education and furthers the partnership between school and home.

Huntingdale Primary School has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the school community- parents, students, teachers and 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.

The school recognises that homework activities can involve students learning through real life activities with the family. Examples of these activities are: handling money whilst shopping with parents, looking up destinations on street maps, reading stories and discussing news/events of the day. Many students spend much of their time out of school in a variety of leisure time and planned activities (e.g. Language Schools, music lessons). Sporting clubs and social groups can be just as meaningful and important as homework.

Homework can 'spark' many different ideas and emotions. As a culturally diverse school population our parents and students' views, expectations, experiences and values of homework are different. However it is important to recognise the setting of 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.

### Purpose

To ensure:

- That homework expectations are communicated to students and parents.
- That students, parents and teachers understand their role in the homework process.
- There is a consistent approach to the homework process in the school.
- That DET policies related to homework are adhered to.
- Support the DET values of leadership, impartiality, integrity, human rights, accountability, respect and responsiveness.



## Implementation

- The Principal has the overall responsibility of implementing this policy.

### Setting Homework

At Huntingdale 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 Huntingdale Primary School will include are stated below:

- Homework will be given for English and Japanese.
  - It may be on a rotational basis depending on the year level.
  - The school expects that all children undertake reading each night- this can be done independently or by reading to another person. Reading should be seen as an activity of enjoyment, relaxation and leisure.
  - The focus will be on literacy (e.g. reading word lists, spelling and writing) and numeracy, with a mixture of traditional 'written' work and online learning.
  - Homework will be set on a weekly basis and is not expected to be completed on weekends.
- Huntingdale 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. This could be a note in the diary or a face to face meeting.
- Homework should have some flexibility for families. Parents may ask/negotiate with their class teacher about their child's homework and some modifications. This request must be made in writing stating the reasons. Parents should consider the impact on their child's learning and also discuss this with the classroom teacher/s.

### Holiday/Extra Homework Tasks

- Special homework for children who are absent from school on a family holiday will not be provided. Suggested activities for children on holidays include keeping a travel diary, writing letters to friends and family, reading books of interest, reading maps and travel brochures, keeping a record of kilometres travelled, money spent, petrol used, etc.
- If families want more homework than what is set, they should arrange this themselves. This could be extra reading, activity books purchased from a book shop or online learning.

### Communicating Homework Expectations

- Parents will be advised at the beginning of Term 1 on Operoo about homework for their children. They will be asked to acknowledge and sign that they have read the homework guidelines.
- In Term 3 of the expectations in relation to homework for their child will be sent in the term newsletter.

The following people play a critical role in the process of homework and have the following responsibilities:



### **School Leaders**

- Ensure that students and parents/carers have access to the homework policy
- Ensure the homework requirements are communicated to family
- Ensure the school community has an opportunity to voice their opinions about homework (e.g. via online survey) when this policy is reviewed

### **Teachers**

- Set homework that is appropriate to the students they are teaching. It should be meaningful tasks related to class work and suit the students' learning needs.
- Emphasise the importance of reading to students.
- Ensure the homework requirements for children are communicated to the family at least twice a year (See Appendix 1). This can be done as a level team.
- Correct students' homework in a timely manner and give feedback e.g. verbal, written comment
- Communicate to parents regularly about students' homework, particularly if it is not being completed or they are having difficulty.
- Support students with homework by explaining the tasks each week in class, reminding them of the due date and giving students access to resources they may need (e.g. paper, log in details for online learning).
- Adjusting homework requirements for students if requested by the parents or needed for the student (e.g. if the task is too easy/hard).
- Meet with parents, on request, to discuss homework.
- Keep records of homework completed by individual students.

### **Parents**

- Work collaboratively with their child to create a regular homework routine.
- Set up an appropriate area in their home for their child to complete homework and have basic materials such as pens/pencils and paper for their child to use.
- Encourage their child to complete homework and assist them where necessary.
- Emphasise the importance of reading to their child and support them to do reading each night at home
- Show interest and give positive feedback about their child completing homework.
- Acknowledge they understand the homework requirements for their child on Operoo. (See Appendix 1)
- Communicate any concerns about homework to the child's teacher, for example, if the homework is too hard, too easy, too time consuming or there are circumstances that will prevent the child from completing homework (e.g. family visiting overseas, extra practice required for a piano exam so homework cannot be done this week, computer issues)

### **Students**

- Read each night at home.
- Complete homework tasks each week and submit them on the due date.
- Put effort into completing homework and try their personal best.
- When homework is given out in class, ask any questions they have of their teacher.
- Seek help from their teachers and parents if they are having difficulty with homework.
- Give feedback to their teacher if homework tasks are too hard or easy.



## Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's 3 year cycle or to comply with DET policy changes.

## Document Status

<b>Reviewed</b>	<b>School Council Ratification</b>	<b>Next Review</b>
September 2017	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2020
March 9- Principal	30 March 2021	March 2024



## Appendix 1 Sample Homework Letter

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents of Students in ????

This letter sets out the homework requirements for your child this year.

Homework is given out on ?? and is due on ??.

Students have been given a book to complete both their English and Japanese homework.

Students should complete the following:

### English

- Read for at least 15 minutes each night and complete your reading journal.
- Complete the Mathematics and spelling tasks in your book.

### Japanese

- Complete the weekly reading and writing task in your book.

If your child is experiencing any issues related to homework, please come and see us.

If circumstances change and your child needs adjustments to their homework please put this in writing.

Kind regards

?????  
English Teacher

???  
Japanese Teacher

---

## Homework Reply Slip

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

I have received and understand the homework requirements for my child for 2018. I understand that if I have any questions I should approach my child's teacher/s. If I need adjustments made to the homework I will communicate this to the teacher/s.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_