

## 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.

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

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.



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office



## **Purpose**

To ensure:

- We outline and communicate to our school community the Department's and Huntingdale Primary School's policy requirements relating to homework.
- That students, parents and teachers understand their role in the homework process.
- There is a consistent approach to the homework process in the school.
- Support the DE values of leadership, impartiality, integrity, human rights, accountability, respect and responsiveness.

## **Implementation**

- The principal has the overall responsibility of implementing this policy.
- This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Huntingdale Primary School.

## 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, 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.
- Homework should have some flexibility for families. Parents may ask/negotiate with their class teacher about their child's homework and some modifications. If parents do not wish their child to do homework, this should be communicated by the parents to the teachers at the beginning of the school year. 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. These students have a Student Absence Learning Plan with suggested activities for students on holidays.
- 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 See Saw about homework for their children. They will be asked to acknowledge and sign that they have read the homework guidelines. (this will be in hard copy).
- Reminders about homework expectations will be sent in the term newsletter.

### Shared Expectations & 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.

#### **School Leaders**

- 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.

#### **Teachers**

- 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.
- Ensure the homework requirements for children are communicated to the family (See Appendix 1). This can be done as a level team.
- 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).
- Keep records of homework completed by individual students.

#### **Students**

- Being aware of the school's homework expectations and discussing these with their family.
- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames.
- When homework is given out in class, ask any questions they have of their teacher.
- Follow up on any comments/feedback made by teachers about homework. Give feedback to their teacher if homework tasks are too hard or easy.
- Seek help from their teachers and parents if they are having difficulty with homework.
- Organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.



## **Parents**

- 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. 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)
- 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 and have basic materials such as pens/pencils and paper for their child to use.
- Work collaboratively with their child to create a regular homework routine, encouraging their child to complete homework and assist them where necessary, giving positive feedback.
- Acknowledge they understand the homework requirements for their child. (See Appendix 1)

## **Supports**

- 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, via See- Saw or a face-to-face meeting.

## **Communication**

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff Key Documents online folder
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings
- Discussed at Parents as Partners Night and parent/teacher interviews
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## **Related Policies and Resources**

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

## **Policy Review & Approval**

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

Policy Reviews	March 2024 March 2021 September 2017
Last Consultation	Staff- 26 March 2024 Community-20- 28 March 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2027



## 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

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Japanese Teacher

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## 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: \_\_\_\_\_