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**HOMEWORK POLICY**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Heatherhill 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.

**RATIONALE**

Heatherhill 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**

At Heatherhill 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.

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

Teachers at Heatherhill 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 of:

**Junior School**
- Nightly take-home Reader
- Word recognition lists

- Tasks to practice number skills

Will generally not exceed more than 30 minutes each day.

**Middle School**- Nightly take-home Reader
- Word recognition lists

-Tasks to practice and apply skills taught in Mathematics

-Tasks to prepare for future lessons such as research, pre-reading texts
- 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

Will generally not exceed more than 30 minutes each day.

**Senior School**
- Independent reading with a written reflection

- Tasks to practice and apply skills taught in Mathematics

-Tasks to prepare for future lessons such as research, pre-reading texts
- 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

Will generally not exceed more than 45 minutes each day.

**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.

Heatherhill 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
* 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 Heatherhill 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 the students' learning needs
* give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
* assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
* 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 in 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 activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

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 them, 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 the homework
* attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
* ensuring upper primary students keep a homework diary
* 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 Heatherhill Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the 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 their classroom teacher.

Heatherhill Primary School has in place a number of learning programs that students may attend during lunchtimes to assist with particular areas of need or interest, including:

* Lunchtime Sports Clinics – Sporting Schools Victoria

## **Further information and resources**

* School Policy and Advisory Guide:
	+ Homework Guidelines
	+ Homework Expectations

## **Review Cycle**

This policy was last updated September 2020 and is scheduled for review in [November 2023].