

## HOMework POLICY

### PURPOSE

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

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering valuable lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

#### **Aims**

To provide another opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish homework patterns from early primary school.

Parents are to be advised of homework expectations and the homework policy is to be made available.

Students benefit from completing homework regularly. Homework helps them to develop as independent learners through organisational and time-management skills, self-discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and personal responsibility for learning.

### POLICY

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

Teachers at Billanook 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 reading, practice exercises or extension assignments.

### Prep to Year 4

In Foundation to Level 2, homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings.

The set homework grid will enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials. The tasks on the grid are recommended to be completed but are not compulsory.

In Level 3 and 4, homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings.

The set homework grid will enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials. The tasks on the grid are recommended to be completed but are not compulsory.

However, the required amount of reading is an expectation, with a consequence enacted if the reading diary is not consistently signed by a parent.

This will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day.

### Year 5 - 6

In Level 5 and 6, homework, should include daily independent reading. It will be coordinated among teachers to avoid unreasonable workloads for students and may include extension of class work, projects, assignments and research.

This will generally be around 3 hours per week.

At this level there is an expectation that the homework set is completed, with a consequence enacted if it is not presented.

### TYPES OF HOMEWORK

Homework should be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- interesting and challenging
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- monitored by teachers with appropriate feedback

Types of homework that meet these requirements include:

- *Practice exercises* — providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:
- completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics – memorisation of tables
- practising spelling words
- practising words or phrases learnt in German
- reading for pleasure
- writing essays and other creative tasks

*Preparatory homework* — providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:

- reading English texts for class discussion
- researching topics for class work
- collecting newspaper articles
- revising information relating to an ongoing theme.

*Extension assignments* — encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:

- writing a book review
- making or designing an art work
- completing investigation exercises
- researching local news
- finding material on the Internet
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

*Parents and caregivers can help their children by:*

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation.
- observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing.
- encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework.
- being prepared to contact the relevant teacher if any problems arise.
- helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources. Usually it is better to encourage children to complete homework themselves.
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, attending organised sport, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities.
- checking homework for upper primary students has been set and monitoring their homework diaries.
- discussing responses to homework and asking to see completed work.
- discussing homework in their first language, where English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to their own experiences.

*Teachers can help their students by:*

- setting regular homework to help students establish a home study routine.
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work that are appropriate to the students' learning needs.
- giving students tasks that are achievable in the allocated time, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities.
- monitoring homework and providing timely and practical feedback.
- making effective use of homework diaries for students in levels 5 and 6.

### HOMEWORK POLICY

- helping students develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning.
- providing opportunities for students to share homework in class
- ensuring that parents and caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy, and
- encouraging parents to become active partners in homework.

### REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was last updated on:

**Date:**

Feb 2019

**Evaluation and Review:**

Feb 2022

**Ratified and Approved by School Council: Date**