

## HOME LEARNING (HOMEWORK) POLICY (2023-2027)



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office on 9404 1548

### PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Morang South Primary School's policy requirements relating to homework.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Morang South Primary School.

### RATIONALE

Home Learning helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning and independence. It fosters lifelong learning and provides an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Morang South 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
- providing opportunities for students to develop regular study habits and develop time management skills
- providing opportunities for students take responsibility for their learning
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

Home Learning is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish good Home Learning patterns from early primary school.

Home Learning should be kept in perspective. Home Learning is not designed for instruction or evaluation of the students' achievements. Care should be taken to ensure that undue pressure is not placed on students and that a balance is maintained between Home Learning, recreational, family and cultural pastimes. Hence the time spent on Home Learning is minimal compared to the amount of time the students spend on their learning at school.

Home Learning should provide opportunities for students to link into the wider community in areas such as research and taking part in surveys. It should reflect and extend the classroom program based on skills already introduced. The school will encourage parents to support the policy and promote involvement through written/verbal communication.

## DEFINITIONS

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

## POLICY

At Morang South 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 students at Morang South Primary School may partake in:

**VOLUNTARY HOME LEARNING** - in which children are encouraged to pursue current class programs and interests through reading, researching information, preparing a talk/speech, discussing class activities with family members

**PRESCRIBED HOME LEARNING** - in which children complete a task set by the teacher. This will have a consistent return to school date. This could include reading, mathematics, Integrated Studies projects, language (writing / spelling) and completing unfinished schoolwork.

The range of Home Learning activities will vary according to the grade level of each child. For example, activities in the early grades will be designed so that parents and children can share experiences and are more informal. However, some work at the senior school level will be formally set and will require some independent work by the children.

### Prep:

Home Learning will generally not exceed 15 minutes per day, or up to 1 hour per week. Home Learning will consist mainly of:

- reading take-home books, with, to and by parents/carers
- practising reading and writing high frequency words
- preparation for speaking and listening (Show and Tell)
- encouraging the use of Mathletics and Reading Eggs online

### Grades One and Two:

Home Learning will generally not exceed 15 minutes per day, or up to 1 hour per week. Home Learning will consist mainly of:

- reading activities to, with and by parents/carers
- preparation for speaking and listening (Show and Tell)

- practising reading and writing high frequency words
- practising their counting goals
- practising of Write to Read codes and rules
- simple tasks associated with classroom activities or specialist classes
- encouraging the use of online Mathematics or Reading Programs

#### **Grades Three and Four:**

Home Learning will generally not exceed 20 minutes per day, or up to 2 hours per week. Home Learning will consist mainly of:

- independent reading at least 5 nights a week (minimum 15 minutes)
- practising of Write to Read codes and rules
- practising reading and writing high frequency words (if not achieved)
- occasional project/ research work related to the units of work being studied within the class/school
- simple tasks associated with classroom curriculum, including specialist classes
- practising their maths goals

#### **Grades Five and Six:**

Home Learning will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day, or up to 3 hours per week. Home Learning will consist mainly of:

- independent reading at least 5 nights a week (minimum 20 minutes)
- occasional project/ research work related to the units of work being studied within the class/school
- simple tasks associated with classroom curriculum, including specialist classes
- practising their maths goals
- personalised learning goals if required

#### **Optional Enrichment Activities / Voluntary Home Learning**

- board games, card games and dice games (these promote conversation, use of strategies and reinforce are in a game setting, basic number facts, counting, reading and spelling skills)
- locating and writing instructions for games
- keeping journals/ diaries
- reading and following instructions
- cooking- reading recipes, measuring and timing (putting into a real situation the skills that are presented at school)
- planning meals for the week
- setting personal routines using timetables, calendars
- writing shopping lists
- calculating the cost of items- for example at the supermarket (and other shops) and using catalogues
- using road maps to plan journeys
- writing lists for parties etc
- involvement in physical activity to promote fitness

## 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 Morang South Primary School are to:

- foster lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools
- ensure the school's Home Learning policy is relevant to the needs of students
- encourage parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- ensure that upper primary students use Home Learning diaries to provide regular communication between parents and the school (Diaries may be electronic)

Responsibilities and expectations for leaders at Morang South Primary School are to:

- advise parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year at Information Evenings and through the Term One Team newsletters and provide them with access to the homework policy.
- inform parents/carers that a copy of the complete policy will be made available from the office on request

Responsibilities and expectations for teachers at Morang South Primary School are to:

- advise students of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year
- set curriculum aligned, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- give students enough time to complete Home Learning, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- check that Home Learning is being completed through individual/class organisation
- assess Home Learning and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- develop strategies within the school to support parents/carers to become active partners in Home Learning
- provide students with opportunities during the week to discuss or seek clarification of Home Learning tasks
- inform parents/carers that a copy of the complete policy will be made available from the office on request
- advise parents will be notified once a student has attended Home Learning Club twice within a term

Responsibilities and expectations for students are:

- being aware of the school's Home Learning policy
- 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, and part-time employment (for older students).
- in grades 3-6, to use Home Learning diaries to record all their Home Learning and upcoming events.

- in grades Foundation-2, to use reading diaries to record their home reading (Diaries provide a means of regular communication between parents and the school)
- attending MSPS Home Learning Club if they are unable to complete their Home Learning by the due date

Responsibilities and expectations for parents/carers are:

- fostering a positive and productive approach to Home Learning
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on Home Learning 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 Home Learning or difficulties with their child completing set tasks
- 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 and family culture
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.
- ensuring upper primary keep a Home Learning diary
- encouraging students to explain what they are doing, and why they are doing it
- praising your child (It is easy to criticise your child when Home Learning is not done, it is a lot harder to give applause for Home Learning completed. It is important to remember that your words of praise, more than anything else, will motivate your child to do his/her best and to take pride in their work.)
- encouraging your child to take responsibility for remembering to pack their Home Learning in their bag the night before

**“A parent’s role is not the teacher; it is coach and cheer squad.”**

## SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Morang South 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:

- Available publicly on our school’s website
- A link included in staff handbook
- A QR code made available to parents in our year level newsletters
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	2023
Consultation	School Council - 22/02/2023 Staff Student Voice
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2027