

Syndal South Primary School

Homework Policy

PURPOSE

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. This policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff, Syndal South's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

GENERAL AIMS

Homework should be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- interesting, challenging, and where appropriate open ended
- balanced with a range of recreational, family, and cultural activities
- purposeful, meaningful, and relevant to the curriculum
- assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

GUIDELINES

Foundation to Year 4

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to:

- practise and consolidate concepts taught during class time
- introduce concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare students for upper grades
- build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials
- consist mainly of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carers or older siblings
- students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

Year 5 to Year 6

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to:

- build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative and to prepare students for secondary school
- assign homework task, which will include daily independent reading and may include extensions assignments, classwork, essays and research. The



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period for which the homework will be assigned will be for a week duration and may commence on any day of the given school week

- students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during school holidays.

Shared Expectations and Responsibilities

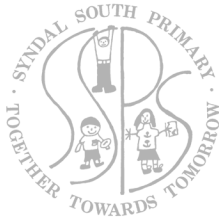
Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

We 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 Syndal South 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.



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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.

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 the 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 Syndal South 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



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spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to their class teachers or Year Level Coordinator.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

School Policy and Advisory Guide:

- Homework Guidelines
- Homework Expectations

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated and ratified on 26th June 2018. It is scheduled for review in June 2022.