



MOUNT HAWTHORN PRIMARY SCHOOL

TOGETHER TOWARDS THE FUTURE

HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONALE

Homework is a purposeful out of class learning that seeks to enhance the extent to which children benefit from their education. Homework can be the vehicle for children, parents and teacher to work together to assist the child's development. It can support higher levels of student achievement by extending the time available for students to consolidate skills and concepts learned at school. It also extends the time available for the exploration of new ideas and new situations.

PRINCIPLES

Homework should:

1. Support the development of the student's independence as a learner;
2. Further the partnership between school and home;
3. Avoid dependence on unreasonable levels of parental assistance or resources that are not readily available to the student;
4. Be set without impinging on reasonable time for family, recreational, cultural and employment pursuits relevant to the student's age, development and educational aspirations;
5. Be balanced across learning areas so as to avoid stress and overload;
6. Be phased in gradually and consistently as students move through the upper primary years and sustained through the secondary years;
7. Be consistently applied, monitored and assessed in a whole-school approach that is responsive to individual needs and learning area requirements;
8. Only be used to facilitate the achievement of learning outcomes;
9. Form part of a developmental learning program that is responsive to individual needs, clearly relevant, supported by classroom practice and, where appropriate, developed in collaboration with students; and
10. Be disassociated from any form of punishing students or means of securing discipline.

Taken from *Homework K-12 Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting*, Department of Education

GUIDELINES

Teachers inform parents of school homework policy procedures, appropriate time commitments and expectations at parent meeting in first term. The time spent on homework depends on the child and the homework for that week and may vary according to specific tasks and their associated timelines which in turn encourage students to learn to manage their homework commitment efficiently. The following is a guide to the types of homework likely to be provided at Mt Hawthorn Primary School:

- Communication between students, staff and parents is maintained through e-mail.
- For projects over time, a check list and information will be provided to support parents and children.
- Reading for pleasure on a daily basis is encouraged across all year levels.

KINDERGARTEN/ PRE PRIMARY

There will be no formal work set at the Kindergarten. However, news telling tasks may require parent support. Home reading and sight words are introduced to the Pre-Primary students. Some suggestions include:

- Read to your child daily. Shared reading to your child, saying nursery rhymes, word games, counting etc is strongly recommended. Count things whenever an interesting opportunity allows
- Practise of skills learnt at school will be on the basis of enjoyment and sharing with the family
- Comprehension Literature Packs
- Home reading (when applicable)
- Allow your child to help with cooking
- Take an interest in the things your child brings home and talks about from school;
- Have stationery available for your child to use
- Encourage running, climbing, balancing, ball play (throwing, catching, kicking, batting), getting dirty (sand, mud, paint, etc).
- For these suggestions to be useful, the child's interest must be engaged. If it isn't, try again another time.
- The teacher may also give parents ideas and suggestions for encouraging their child's development and to support the learning in the Kindergarten/Pre-Primary program.

YEARS 1 – 2 HOMEWORK

- Homework in these early years should be limited to short tasks. These should form the basis of a positive opportunity for parents and children to enjoy learning together. Examples of appropriate homework tasks in this area are:
- Nightly reading, phonics, spelling and word recognition practice in the form of oral reading, reading for pleasure, adults reading to children;
- Maths practice and reinforcement of number facts as appropriate,
- Occasional collection of materials and parent supervised research together with discussions of Science, History and Geography activities with your child;
- Some activities will be online.
- Other activities may be given to consolidate classroom work. Practise of skills learnt at school will be on the basis of enjoyment and sharing with the family.
- Recommended time allocation: On average ten to twenty minutes per session four times per week.

YEARS 3 – 4 HOMEWORK

- The emphasis will remain on children sharing their school learning experiences with their family.
- Reading, Spelling and Maths homework will be set weekly. Some activities will be online.
- Enrichment and extension of school learning activities will be encouraged.
- Recommended time allocation: On average thirty minutes per session four times per week.

YEAR 5

- Homework should provide children with practice and reinforcement opportunities and introduce them to the process of investigating and researching independently. Examples of appropriate homework tasks in this area are:
- Children at this level will be taught to practise effective home-study skills. eg. homework diary, set homework time, plan, setting timelines and meeting commitments.
- Reading for pleasure and learning spelling words
- Maths revision, consolidation, enrichment and extension activities to meet individual student needs will be the basis for the homework set at this level and include practice to reinforce number facts and tables and mathematics taught in class
- Some activities will be online.
- Introducing research and problem solving tasks
- Finishing off class work not completed during the school day.

- Recommended time allocation: On average forty five minutes per session four times per week

YEAR 6

- Effective homework in the upper primary years includes, but goes beyond practice and reinforcement exercises as in previous years. Effective homework seeks to:
 - Strengthen independent study skills
 - Motivate students to study by setting them interesting and challenging tasks that are related to their class work
 - Homework requirements should recognise the need for children to have time for out of school interests, friends, family, social activities and personal time.
 - Examples of appropriate homework tasks in this area are:
 - Practice and reinforcement exercises arising from class work;
 - Reading, Spelling and Maths homework will be set weekly. Some activities will be online.
 - Revision, consolidation, enrichment and extension activities to meet individual student needs will be the basis for the homework set at this level.
 - Short and longer term tasks that develop time management skills;
 - Reading for pleasure;
 - Work that involves research and investigatory skills and
 - Thinking challenges.
 - Finishing off class work not completed during the school day.
 - Recommended time allocation: On average forty five minutes per session four times per week

STRESS FREE HOMEWORK AT HOME

The following recommendations are included:

- Provide your child with quiet time and place to do homework;
- Show a genuine interest in your child's homework and become involved, but refrain from doing it for them;
- Establish a homework routine and be aware of homework procedures;
- Ensure that your child has the tools they need to do their homework, eg. pens, pencils rulers, erasers, glue scissors and paper;
- Supervised access to the Internet will be of assistance to students engaged in research tasks.

CHILDREN ON HOLIDAYS DURING SCHOOL TIME

Extended vacations are terrific learning experience in their own right. The social, cultural and the possibility of exposure to other languages can have an enormous benefit for children of all ages.

Considerations:

- Gather a range of appropriate reading material from the local library on a long-term loan for your child to read.
- Take advantage of the social, cultural and linguistic experiences involving visits to places of interest.
- Your child could maintain e-mail contact with their class or send post cards.
- Maintain a daily diary.
- For holidays in excess of 6 months children can be enrolled in the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE). For periods marginally less than 6 months parents may negotiate an arrangement with the School (SIDE).