

Bundoora Primary School Policy Manual	CURRICULUM POLICY Home Learning	Last ratified by School Council in: to be ratified MAY 2016
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If further information is required, please refer to the DET Homework Guidelines.

1. VISION

At home, students engaging in meaningful activities and discussions that complement what they are learning at school.

2. RATIONALE

2.1 We value a regular reading habit at home and the practise of core English and Mathematics skills. We encourage and expect that students read every day, increasing the amount of time spent reading as they progress through primary school.

2.2 We acknowledge that families have different needs and expectations in relation to home based learning.

2.3 Staff have a professional responsibility to communicate to parents if they believe that a specific Home Learning task will positively impact upon their child's progress.

3. ACTION

3.1 Encourage and expect all students to read every day and to find reading materials that interest them either from school, home or community libraries.

3.2 Relate Home Learning tasks to the curriculum ensuring that each task set is purposeful and within the capability of each student to complete independently at home.

3.3 Ensure that parents/carers and students are aware of the *DET Homework Guidelines as below:*

Schools must have a documented approach to homework which takes into account the personal and developmental needs of students.

The setting of homework needs to take into consideration the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, sport and recreation, cultural pursuits and employment where appropriate.

The table below describes quality homework practice for the different year levels.

Years	Homework
Prep to 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ can foster a sense of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare students for upper grades ▪ enables the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering of extra information or materials ▪ will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings
5 to 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ should include daily independent reading ▪ should be coordinated across learning areas in secondary schools to avoid unreasonable workloads for students ▪ may extend class work, projects and assignments, essays and research.

Teachers can support students by:

- equipping students with the skills to solve problems
- encouraging real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination

- *setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs*
- *giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities*
- *assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support*
- *helping students develop organisational and time-management skills*
- *ensuring parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy*
- *developing strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in homework.*
- *offering a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.*

Parents can support students 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 and secondary 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 groups.*

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- *being aware of the school's homework policy*
- *discussing with their parents or caregivers 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.*

3.4 Explain expectations and timelines to students when Home Learning tasks are set.

Home learning may include:

- Daily reading
- Learning spelling words
- Learning number facts

3.5 Punitive measures will not be implemented for non-completion of Home Learning tasks

3.6 Parents/carers of students in Prep– Year 2 should record their child's reading in the *Home Reading Log*.

3.7 Students in Years 3 – 6 should be encouraged to use their *Student Diary* to record the home learning tasks set, and as a reading log.

3.8 No commercially produced homework sheets will be sent home unless they are specifically related to classroom learning.

3.9 At Prep – 2 level, it is expected that students will prepare an oral presentation on their weekly discovery topic. Students in Years 3 – 6 will be expected to prepare and practise oral presentations when required.

4. REVIEW

The *Home Learning Policy* will be reviewed regularly, as part of the school's policy review process.