

PRIMARY SCHOOL - HOMEWORK POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Pleasant Street 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.

POLICY

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

Teachers at Pleasant Street Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate and meaningful for their students.

Prep to Year 2

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time.

Students in Years Prep to 2 will complete daily home reading with a combination of levelled home readers and high-interest books that the students self-select. It is our aim in the home reading program to not only practice reading skills learnt at school, but to also develop a strong love of reading with parents. Students may also be asked to complete 5-minute supportive literacy tasks.

Prep to Year 2 Homework Tasks:

- Home reader book. Recording of the title in home reading diaries.
- Short literacy tasks – may include sight word practice.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 20 minutes of homework per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

Year 3 to Year 6

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative.

Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading. Other tasks will be related to the learning in the classroom. These tasks *could* be (but not limited to):

- Preparation of in integrated studies unit.
- Speeches for Junior School Council.
- Taking a photo of Dad for a Father's Day activity.
- Finishing off work not completed in the classroom.
- Writer's Notebook entries of interest.

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 the holidays.

Individual Learning Plans

Students who have Individual Learning Plans may require some extra assistance and follow up at home. E.g. A student who is participating in Reading Intervention may have some home tasks to complete. If this is required, staff will contact parents and it will be included as part of their Individual Learning Plan.

Extended Family Holiday Homework

As stated above, homework tasks will not be assigned on the weekends or during holidays. However, we understand that there are some instances where families take extended family holidays. If homework is required for these instances, we recommend choosing from the following:

- Daily reading
- Listening to educational Podcasts (e.g. ABC KIDS Listen)
- Completing Writer's Notebook entries.
- Compiling a digital or written journal of the holiday.

Please note: No other tasks will be allocated by teachers.

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.

Pleasant Street Primary School 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 Pleasant Street Primary School will:

- ensure all homework is meaningful, relevant and followed up by the teacher.
- 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.

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 and part-time employment.

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 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

At Pleasant Street Primary School, we believe all homework must be purposeful, meaningful and followed up by the teacher.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - [Homework Guidelines](#)
 - [Homework Expectations](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on October 2019 and is scheduled for review on October 2022.