



HOMEWORK

POLICY

Rationale:

At Merri Creek Primary School, we understand and value the children's family and social life, their home responsibilities and their involvement in leisure/other activities. We believe that learning takes place in many settings, including home and school, and through many and various activities.

We are mindful that any activities/projects given as homework are meaningful, challenging and enjoyable. Our homework policy encourages activities, and times set aside for these, which are realistic and achievable in the home setting and do not unduly interfere with a home-school balance.

In this policy, "home reading" refers to reading practice. From Years Prep-4, children are given levelled reading material appropriate to their reading stage. The focus for daily reading practice is on developing sight vocabulary and reading fluency, practising strategies for reading and consciously encouraging comprehension of the sequence, ideas and themes within the story. Regular reading, for all students, will assist the development and consolidation of the skills involved in reading. Recommended time allocations for home reading are set out in this policy.

Purpose of Homework:

- To foster curiosity and love of inquiry and learning.
- To reaffirm the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education.
- To develop long term habits of learning and time management.
- To allow for practice, consolidation and extension of work done in class.
- To allow for the practice of research skills and the presentation of this information.

Implementation:

- The homework policy will be distributed to parents at the commencement of each school year.
- At the beginning of each term, individual class teachers will communicate with parents and students about the nature of homework for that particular class and what, if any parental involvement is requested.
- Teaching and Learning Teams will ensure a consistent approach to the amount and type of homework set for same class levels.
- A Home Reading Information Night will be held in Term 1 each year to inform parents, of children in all year levels, on how to assist their child(ren) with reading.
- All students in Years 5/6 will be allocated diaries to keep a record of their homework.
- All students in Years Prep – 4 will have a Reading Log to keep a record of their home reading.
- Teachers will communicate with parents/carers, either by phone, note or in person if their child is consistently not completing homework.
- Strategies to improve/assist home study practices will be discussed between parents/carers, student and teacher for those children experiencing difficulty in completing their homework.

- Students will have at least one week to complete homework. More time will be allocated for the completion of projects.
- Any questions regarding homework should be initially directed to the class teacher.

Parent/Carer Involvement

- Parents are encouraged to read to, and with, their children throughout all their primary school years. This is done simultaneously with students developing fluency through daily oral reading of the home reading book. It helps students improve their comprehension. Parents may read picture story books, novels and poetry.
- Although parents and carers are encouraged to be involved in their child's homework, they need to be mindful of not extending that involvement to doing too much or all of the work, especially with regard to research projects. This may create a disincentive for achieving the purposes of homework and may also result in unfair comparisons with other children's work.

Early Years (Prep – Year 4)

Homework will consist of:

- Reading the home reading book daily aloud to an adult. Daily reading practice times must be signed by parents in the Reading Log.
- Occasional other activities as may be set by the teacher.

The maximum time spent on home reading on a daily basis should be 15 minutes for Prep-Year 2 and 20 minutes for Year 3 - 4.

Where other activities are set, a maximum time spent should be 20 minutes per week for Prep – 2 and 40 minutes for Year 3 - 4.

Middle Years (Years 5 – 6)

Homework will consist of:

- Daily reading of an appropriate text for at least 20 minutes. This daily reading may be done individually or as a shared activity with an adult. Daily reading practice times must be documented and signed by parents in the student's diary.
- Weekly homework tasks as may be set by the teacher.

Where teachers believe that the student's reading would improve through reading aloud practice, they will communicate this to parents/carers.

The maximum time spent on weekly homework tasks at this level should be 1 hour per week, in addition to home reading.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

December, 2005