

HOMework POLICY

Laburnum Primary School

Rationale:

This policy is based on key educational research by:

John Hattie (2009) -

**task oriented homework, such as rehearsal of basic skills, had higher effects than homework requiring deep learning or problem solving. Effects were also higher when homework was not complex*

**Parent support for homework has a positive effect on achievement, whereas direct instruction by parents can have the opposite*

**a large amount of homework tends to lower student achievement*

Robert Marzano & Debra Pickering (2007) -

**homework provides students with an opportunity to practise and review what they have learned*

**the purpose of homework should be identified and articulated*

**if homework is assigned, it should be commented on*

**parental involvement should be kept to a minimum*

- Homework benefits students by complementing the teaching and learning within the classroom
- Homework may help to develop a routine for students and self-motivated working patterns
- Homework promotes parental engagement (Evidence for Learning.org)

Scope:

- To support and reinforce classroom learning.
- To develop positive study habits.
- To develop a responsibility for self-learning.
- To increase parent awareness of their child's learning as related to the Victorian F-10 curriculum

Policy:

- The school's homework policy will be made available to parents on the school website
- Activities are to be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum
- Classroom teachers will set homework that is matched to student ability
- Open-ended tasks will be supported by the classroom program
- The purpose of the homework activity is to be clearly stated, e.g. We Are Learning To (WALT) ...
- All homework activities will be assessed with feedback and support provided by teachers
- Students in Years 5 and 6 will be supported to use homework diaries to develop organisational skills

- If parents do not wish their child to be set homework, a letter informing the classroom teacher of their decision is to be forwarded to the school and kept on file
- Return times for homework will be consistent for P-2, 3/4 and 5/6.

Junior & Middle School (Prep – Year 4)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- daily reading as appropriate to the child’s ability including:
 - reading independently,
 - reading to others,
 - reading with others or
 - reading by others
- practice and application of skills which have been learnt at school
- gathering of simple additional information or everyday materials associated with classroom activities

As per DET guidelines, in P-2, set homework will not exceed 60 minutes per week. Parents are encouraged to guide student’s time management. Homework exceeding 15 minutes a day becomes unproductive.

As per DET guidelines, in Years 3 - 4, set homework will not exceed 120 minutes per week. Parents are encouraged to guide student’s time management. Homework exceeding 30 minutes a day becomes unproductive.

Senior School (Years 5 & 6)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- daily reading as appropriate to the child’s ability including:
 - reading independently,
 - reading to others,
 - reading with others or
 - reading by others
- tasks such as continuation of classroom work and research.
- practice and application of skills which have been learnt at school

As per DET guidelines, in Years 5 - 6, set homework will not exceed 120 minutes per week. Parents are encouraged to guide student’s time management. Homework exceeding 30 minutes a day becomes unproductive.

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.

Laburnum 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 access to current policy via the school website
- 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 Laburnum 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.

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- discussing homework expectations with their teachers, parents/carers
- 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, and 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 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 Laburnum Primary School understand that students have different learning strengths and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework in varying ways. If parents are concerned that their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage them to speak to their classroom teachers.

Additional information and resources:

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

Evaluation:

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

*This policy was last endorsed by School Council
in:*

August 2020