

# Homework Policy



## Avondale Primary School

### **Commitment to Child Safety**

*Avondale Primary School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision making. Avondale Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.*

*Avondale Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and / or linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, vulnerable children as well as the safety of children with a disability.*

*Every person involved in Avondale Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/ she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.*

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Avondale 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. The development of Avondale Primary School's Homework Policy has involved consultation with teachers, parents and students and with reference to DET Guidelines. We believe that homework set by teachers and supported by families promotes the development of life-long skills in self-organisation, study habits and consolidates in-school learning.

### **POLICY**

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

Teachers at Avondale Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful.

Homework should be:

- A reflection of the work being done in class
- Appropriate to a student's skill and age level
- Stimulating but not too complex
- Mainly consist of reading but also have a balance of numeracy, literacy and general studies
- In line with DET guidelines
- Another opportunity for parents to help in their child's education
- Set with consideration given to the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle

### **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.

Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings.

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Students are generally not expected to complete more than 15-20 minutes of homework per day.

### Year 3 to Year 4

In the middle years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.

Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day.

### Year 5 to Year 6

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

Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading and spelling words and may include extension assignments, class work, essays and research.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework.

### Types of homework

The school community recognises the need for free time for children to develop other interests as well as enjoy their family. *The amount of time spent on homework should reflect the age and grade level of individual children.*

Prep	Grade 1 / 2	Grade 3 / 4	Grade 5 / 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Daily home reading</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Daily home reading</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Daily home reading</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Daily home reading</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Coloured sight words</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Weekly spelling words</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Weekly spelling words</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Weekly spelling words</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maths &amp; Literacy Activity (Term 2)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maths game &amp; reflections (Grade 1)</li><li>Maths activity sheet (Grade 2)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Homework sheet: <i>Numeracy, Language &amp; General knowledge</i> (approx.5 per term)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Homework sheet: <i>Numeracy, Language &amp; General knowledge</i> (approx.5 per term)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spelling Lists &amp; Maths Activity (Term 3 &amp; 4)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project, when set</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project, when set</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project, when set.</li></ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mathletics</li></ul>

### 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.

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Avondale 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 access to 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 Avondale 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 expectations and where to access the homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework
- communicate with parents via student diaries
- follow up failure of student to complete homework regularly with parents
- 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

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- 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 and assist child to complete tasks within the given timeframe

### Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Avondale Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents are concerned that their child may not understand the homework tasks that has been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage them to speak to their child's classroom teacher.

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

### REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in April 2019 and is scheduled for review in April 2022.