



## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **BLACKBURN LAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Florence Street Blackburn 3130

#### **RATIONALE:**

The current evidence and research shows that the quality of homework assigned is likely to be more important than the quantity. Research has established that homework has a positive effect on learning.

Homework helps students by:

- complementing and reinforcing classroom learning
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- providing an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning
- developing self-regulation processes such as goal-setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection and time management
- supporting partnerships with parents by connecting families with the learning of their children

#### **AIMS:**

This policy aims to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff of Blackburn Lake Primary School's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

Blackburn Lake Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored to suit the developmental needs of students.

Teachers at Blackburn Lake Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise of reading, word study, number fluency work, problem solving, and research about upcoming areas of study.

#### **Prep to Year 4**

- In the early years, the objective of homework is 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 students 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.
- Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings along with word study.
- Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

#### **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, Mathematics, word study and may also include a student's choice of:

- Mindfulness
- Conversation
- Life Skills
- Art/Music
- Research
- Problem Solving
- Physical Activity

Department of Education and Training homework guidelines suggest that students should not spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework. No homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays. Students may be asked to complete unfinished schoolwork as homework as needed.

### **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.

Blackburn Lake 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 information about how to access all policies including 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 diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

### **Teachers at Blackburn Lake 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
- 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 parents/carers and teachers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance from parents/carers and teachers when difficulties arise
- Organising their time to manage homework obligations, and balance these with participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities, and other aspects of family life.

### **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 students take responsibility for planning and completing their homework within given timeframes

## **EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed within three years.

**RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: Insert Date**

**PRINCIPAL:** Loisia Steed    **SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** Dan Watts

## **Links**

DET Homework Guidelines.

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx>

External Links

<http://evidenceforlearning.org.au/toolkit/homework-primary/>