



## HOMWORK POLICY

### PURPOSE

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

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

Homework activities at Gardenvale Primary School should be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum and to suit the students' learning needs. This may comprise of reading, spelling, mathematics, problem solving, inquiry topics and life skills. They may encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination.

#### Prep to Year 3

In the early 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.

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

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day and homework tasks will generally not be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

#### Year 4 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, spelling practice and may include extension assignments, class work, projects and research.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 30 minutes of homework per day in year 4 and 45 minutes per day in years 5 and 6. Usually no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

#### Shared expectations and responsibilities



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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.

Gardenvale 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 during year level information evenings and explain where the homework policy can be located on the school website
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment

Teachers at Gardenvale 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
- decide according to year levels the rewards for homework completion and the consequences of non-completion of set homework tasks
- follow up with parents if students fail to complete homework on a regular basis
- offer a 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
- completing assigned unfinished classroom activities set as homework tasks
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, 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



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- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- 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 Gardenvale Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your 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 you to speak to their classroom teacher.

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

### REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on November 2018 and is scheduled for review in November 2022.