



## Homework Policy

2021

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff, Scoresby Primary School's expectations for homework and at-home learning. Scoresby Primary School's Homework Policy is based on the DET guidelines on homework for all Victorian students.

At Scoresby Primary School, we acknowledge that the time children spend with their families and their involvement in out of hours activities are important components of the development of the whole child. Activities such as art lessons, sports practice, cultural activities, out of school hours care, the learning of a language and tutoring etc are all considered to be valuable learning activities that place additional demands on family time. We also acknowledge that many parents and carers have varied work and personal commitments that impact how and when they can support their child's learning at home.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Scoresby Primary School.

### RATIONALE

Homework benefits students by complimenting classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for them to be responsible for their own learning. With this in mind, Scoresby Primary School has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the school council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- providing opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge
- providing opportunities for students to prepare for future lessons
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

### DEFINITIONS

**Homework** is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

### POLICY

Scoresby Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students. Teachers at Scoresby 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, writing, spelling and mathematical activities that further support what has been explored at school. At Scoresby Primary School all homework set by teachers will be:

- purposeful



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- curriculum-aligned
- appropriate to students' skill level and age
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- monitored by the teacher
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

### **Foundation 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. They may also be asked to complete tasks such as:

- learning letters
- practicing spelling words
- consolidating mathematical concepts

### **Year 3 to Year 4**

At these year levels, 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. Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day.

The types of homework that teachers at Scoresby Primary School may include at this level are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics including maths games
- practising spelling words
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- applying new skills to home context such as:
  - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
  - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
  - growing plants
  - reviewing their favourite film or book
  - writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
  - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
  - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

This may be completed as a two week cycle depending on the needs of the students.



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### **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 maths tasks 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.

The types of homework that teachers at Scoresby Primary School may include at this level are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- practising spelling words
- reading background material for a subject
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- applying new skills to home context such as:
  - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
  - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
  - growing plants
  - reviewing their favourite film or book
  - writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
  - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
  - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

This may be completed as a two week cycle depending on the needs of the students.

### **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.

Scoresby 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 a copy of 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.
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Teachers at Scoresby Primary School are to:

- 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



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- 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:

- 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.
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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
- linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

Please note that homework is not compulsory at Scoresby Primary School however it is highly recommended.

### SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Teachers at Scoresby 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 the classroom teacher so that the homework can be adjusted to meet their individual learning needs.

### RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

### REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 17 June 2021 and is scheduled for review in June 2024