

HOMWORK POLICY

RATIONALE:

Homework comprises of activities that enrich learning through reading, talking and living life. The **best homework** includes things such as playing and sharing interests with relatives and friends. This may be lots of family conversation, bedtime stories, independent reading before lights out, family games, activities and hobbies, visits to the local library, outings to all kinds of places of historic or natural interest and imaginative play that comes naturally to children of all ages. There is also a place for more formal, structured homework that enriches and enhances student learning. This type of homework complements classroom learning, helps to foster positive study habits and provides an opportunity for students to take responsibility for their own learning.

AIM:

The aim of this policy is to outline to students, parents/caregivers and school staff, Findon Primary School's expectations for homework and at home learning. This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting homework.

IMPLEMENTATION:

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

Teachers at Findon 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, extension tasks, unfinished work and project tasks.

In Foundation to Year 4, homework will consist mainly of:

- Real life learning tasks and discussion
- Daily reading to, with, and by parents, caregivers or older siblings
- Extension tasks and open ended inquiry projects
- Unfinished work associated with classroom activities
- Gathering of information and/or materials to support learning

Homework will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day (including reading).

In Year 5/6, homework will consist mainly of:

- Daily independent reading
- Tasks reinforcing and applying concepts taught in class
- Extension of class work, projects and assignments, writing and research
- Unfinished work associated with classroom activities
- Project work associated with class learning

Homework will generally not exceed 45 minutes per day (including reading)

Shared expectations and responsibilities

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/caregivers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Findon 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
- a copy of the Homework Policy will be included in the school newsletter in Term One each year

- encouraging parents/caregivers 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 Findon 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 at home, 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/caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and caregivers to become active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage with their child/children's learning.

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

- discussing with their parents/caregivers 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

It is expected that parents/caregivers 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 school events, productions or displays showcasing their child's work
- ensuring upper primary students keep a homework diary
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and the community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

Support for students, parents and caregivers

Teachers at Findon 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 class teacher.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

REFERENCES:

DET A-Z Guidelines