

## HOMework POLICY

### **RATIONALE:**

Homework comprises of activities that enrich and support learning, through students reading, talking and experiencing the world around them. 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.

Findon Primary School has developed this Homework Policy, in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and connectedness 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 lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/caregivers.

### **AIM:**

To outline to our school community the Department of Education and Training (DET) and Findon Primary School's policy requirements relating to homework. This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Findon Primary School.

### **DEFINITION:**

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

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

At Findon Primary School all homework set by teachers will be:

- purposeful
- 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/caregivers to partner in their child's learning.

The types of homework that teachers at Findon Primary School may include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics or other subject areas
- completing science investigations
- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments or performances
- practising spelling words
- practising sport skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English

- reading/preparing background material for a subject
- 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/caregivers, and seeking their feedback
  - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

### **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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Findon Primary School** are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/caregivers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teaching teams at Findon Primary School** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning (so, they are not 'busy work' or where students 'finish off' work they did/could not complete in class)
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback
- ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/caregivers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on feedback provided by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/caregivers** are:

- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking homework to:
  - previous experiences the child and/or parent/caregiver may have had
  - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
  - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

## **SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CAREGIVERS**

Findon Primary School understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/caregivers are concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage parents/caregivers to speak to their child's teacher, to ensure appropriate adjustments can be made for their child.

## **COMMUNICATION & EVALUATION**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Tabled and discussed at staff briefing
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff information book
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions as required
- Discussed with students at (individual level, cohort levels, assembly)
- Hard copy available from front office upon request

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

## **REFERENCES:**

DET Policy Advisory Library

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/homework/policy>