



PRIMARY SCHOOL - HOMEWORK POLICY

Reviewed: March 2024

Next Review: March 2026

Recommended Review: 2-3 years

Recommended Communication: School Website

DET POLICY



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Doncaster Primary School.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Doncaster 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 and monitoring homework at Doncaster Primary School.

RATIONALE

Doncaster 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 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 refers to tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

POLICY

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

Teachers at Doncaster Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are both appropriate and meaningful to their students. This may consist of reading, practice exercises such as spelling, project work, Mathematics tasks, Reading Eggs tasks and where appropriate extension tasks.

Prep to Level 4

In the early and middle 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 personal 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/carers/older siblings, spelling practice exercises, Athletics tasks, Reading Eggs tasks and writing tasks. There may be project work specific to each level, such as VIP in Prep and Grade 1.

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.

Level 5 and 6

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, personal responsibility, and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.

Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading and may include spelling practice exercises, Reading Eggspress tasks, Athletics tasks, writing tasks, project work and learning tasks via Compass.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

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.

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

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

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers** at Doncaster 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 (homework is not intended to be 'busy work' or simply a chance to 'finish off' work the student 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** at Doncaster Primary School are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- 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 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/carers** 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. Here dialogue should link homework to:
 - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer 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, parents, and carers.

Teachers at Doncaster 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 teachers or team leaders.

Doncaster Primary School has in place a number of learning programs that students may attend before, after or during school times to assist with particular areas of need or interest, including:

- Everest Program
- Victorian High Ability Program (Level 5-6)
- ICAS Competition
- Tutor Learning Initiative
- Public Speaking Competition
- Premier's Reading Challenge

Students may be referred to programs by their teacher in consultation with their parents/carers. For more information about these programs, please contact your classroom teacher.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)