



# Heidelberg Primary School

## HOME LEARNING POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Heidelberg Primary School on 94572259.

### PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Heidelberg Primary School's policy expectations for homework and at-home learning.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring home learning at Heidelberg Primary School.

### RATIONALE

Heidelberg Primary School has developed this Home Learning 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

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

### POLICY

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

Teachers at Heidelberg Primary School exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for the students and most likely to be meaningful.

## **Foundation to Year 4**

In the early years, the objective of home learning 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 home learning tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.

Home learning 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 home learning per day and no home learning tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

## **Year 5 to Year 6**

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

Assigned home learning tasks will include daily independent reading and may include extension assignments, class work, essays and research.

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

## **SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Home learning 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.

### **Heidelberg 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 home learning policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of home learning expectations at the beginning of the school year and providing them with a copy of the home learning 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 home learning diaries to provide regular communication between parents and the school.

### **Teachers at Heidelberg 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 home learning, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities

- assess home learning 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 home learning policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in home learning.
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage with their children.

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

- being aware of the school's home learning policy
- discussing with their parents/carers home learning expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of home learning 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.

**It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:**

- developing a positive and productive approach to home learning.
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on home learning 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 home learning process
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved
- ensuring upper primary students keep a home learning diary
- discussing home learning with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking home learning 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 home learning tasks

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

Teachers at Heidelberg Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and home learning differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the home learning tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their home learning, we encourage you to speak to their class teachers.

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

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## 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
- Included in staff manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff meetings
- Discussed at parent information sessions
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2022
Consultation	School Community – via weekly newsletter (Capers) 20 October 2023
Approved by	Principal, Brett MacKenzie
Next scheduled review date	May 2025