



# HOMework POLICY

## PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Abbotsford Primary School's policy requirements relating to homework.

## SCOPE

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

## RATIONALE

Abbotsford 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.

## DEFINITION

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

## POLICY

At the start of each year, Abbotsford Primary School will provide families with the current homework policy and ask parents/carers to advise the classroom teachers if they would like to opt out of the homework program. Students who opt out of the homework program will not receive any homework in hard copy.

At Abbotsford 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
- **optional** (even for students who have not opted out of the homework program)

The types of homework that teachers at Abbotsford Primary School will include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- practising spelling words
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English
- reading for pleasure in English and Chinese
- revising/preparing for tests
- applying new skills to the home context such as:
  - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
  - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timing, 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.

The homework expectations of students from Foundation to Year 4 are:

- mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings;
- enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials in an enjoyable way;
- not exceed 15 minutes per day for Foundation to Year 2;
- not exceed 30 minutes per day for Year 3 to Year 4.

The homework expectations of students from Year 5 to Year 6 are:

- should include daily independent reading;
- may include extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research;
- time allocation will range from 30 to 45 minutes a day at Year 5, and 45 to 60 minutes a day at Year 6.

## 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 Abbotsford 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 Abbotsford 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;

- offer timely feedback on homework submitted by students;
- not be set on weekends or during school holiday periods.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** (who do not opt out of the homework program) are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy;
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers;
- 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 (for older students).

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'
- in dialogue, linking 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/CARERS**

Abbotsford Primary School understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/carers 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/carers to speak to their child's teacher.

## **MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

## **REVIEW PERIOD**

This policy was last updated in February 2021 and is scheduled for review in February 2025.