Homework Policy

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact school office on 51271512 or moe.ps.south@education.vic.gov.au.

Purpose

Moe (South Street) 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
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers

2. Policy Statement

At Moe (South Street) Primary 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/carers to partner in their child's learning.

3. Implementation

3.1 Principles

Homework is another opportunity for parents/carers to participate in their child's education. Parents/carers, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.

Parents/carers will be advised of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and will be have access to a copy of the school's Homework Policy.

3.2 Purposes of homework

Homework helps students by:

- complementing and reinforcing classroom learning
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- providing an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning

- developing self-regulation processes such as goal-setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection and time management
- supporting partnerships with parents/carers by connecting families with the learning of their children

3.3 Guidelines to Homework

- It is also important that teachers are aware of equity issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to technology should not be disadvantaged.
- Students of all ages should have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school.
- The objective of homework should be to practice and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class.

At South Street Primary School all homework set by teachers will be:

- purposeful
- curriculum-aligned
- appropriate to students' skill level and age
- designed to develop students as independent learners
- monitored by the teacher
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parent/carers to partner in their child's learning.

Homework may consist of:

Foundation-4 homework:

- daily reading to, with, and by parents/carers or older siblings.
- focus on learning spelling words
- practising times tables (in grades 3/4)
- practising of basic maths facts

Years 5 & 6 homework:

- daily independent reading
- reading aloud to a parent/caregiver or younger siblings
- focus on learning spelling words
- practising times tables
- practising of basic maths facts (including on web platforms such as Study ladder/Essential Numeracy)
- may include activities based on the current class focus. e.g. Endangered Animals

Worksheets will NOT be given to students as part of their regular homework. (Extracts from texts may be sent home in paper format.) It is to be emphasised that reading daily, spelling, times tables practise as well as any unfinished work is the basis of homework given at South Street.

Time Allocations

- 5-10 minutes daily
- Homework is not set on weekends or during school holidays.

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3.4 Responsibilities and Expectations

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.

Leaders
Leaders 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.

Teachers
Teachers can help their students by:

- setting clear homework expectations to help students establish a home study routine.
- setting meaningful tasks related to class work that are appropriate to the students' learning needs and age and balanced with the student's recreational, family and cultural activities.
- giving students enough time to complete homework, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback.
- helping students develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning
- ensuring that parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- developing strategies to support parents/carers to become active partners in homework. (Tips and ideas through class newsletters/ Snippets/ information sessions)

Students

Students can help themselves by

- by being aware of the importance of homework
- by being aware of the school's Homework Policy
- completing homework within the given time frame
- alerting parents or caregivers of homework expectations
- seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise, including the amount of time spent on homework
- showing and discussing homework with parents or caregivers

Parents and Care givers
Parents/carers can help their children by:

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child/ren to complete homework
- observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing
- encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read, practise their spelling and times tables.
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with homework
- helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources. It is better to encourage children to complete homework themselves
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities

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3.5 Support for Student and Parents/Carers

South Street 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.

3.6 Communication

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

- Included in staff induction processes.
- Available publicly on our school's website http://www.moe-southst-ps.vic.edu.au/
- Included in staff handbook.
- Reminders in school and classroom newsletters.
- Discussed at parent information sessions.
- Hard copy available from office upon request.

4. Evaluation and review

This policy will be reviewed according to the School Council Calendar Policy Review (every 3-4 years)

5. Definitions

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

6. References

This policy should be reviewed in conjunction with the Department's Homework Guidelines at:

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx

https://evidenceforlearning.org.au/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework

7. School Council Ratification

This policy will be reviewed according to the School Council Calendar Policy Review every three years.

Policy last reviewed	14th September 2021
Date Implemented	30/08/2023
Approval Authority (Signature and date)	B Dawson 30/8/2023

Homework Policy

Consultation	Staff School Council Policy Committee
Dates Reviewed	August 2023
Responsible for Review	Policy Coordinator, Principal
Next Review Date	August 2026