



Homework Policy

Purpose

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

Homework is an activity, part of the overall educational program, set by teachers for students to undertake at home.

Home activities are those done outside the school environment that extends the students' range of learning experiences and takes into account the social and cultural aspects of their home backgrounds.

Scope

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

Rationale

Spensley 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
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

Definitions

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

Policy

At Spensley Street Primary School **if** homework is set by teachers, it 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.

The types of homework that teachers at Spensley Street Primary School **may** include:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- practising spelling words
- reading background material for a subject

- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set classwork
- 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
 - reviewing their favourite film or book
 - writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
 - rehearsing a presentation with parents/carers, and seeking their feedback
 - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

General Expectations:

Prep to Year 3

In the early years of school, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate concepts that have been introduced during class time.

Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or to parents/carers or another family member. Students may also keep a reading diary to record their reading practise to connect learning at home and at school.

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.

Years 4-5

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

Assigned homework tasks may include daily independent reading and may include extension assignments, research, additional practice, preparation or continuation of tasks started at school as determined by the classroom teacher.

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.

Year 6

As in Years 4-5, specific homework tasks are set as part of the Year 6-7 transition program. Generally 2-3 research/project-based tasks per term.

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.

Individual Learning Plans

Some children at Spensley Street have Individual Learning Plans (ILPs). ILPs are written for students who are:

- Koori
- Funded as part of the Department of Education Disability Inclusion initiative
- Not meeting expected curriculum outcomes in English or Mathematics by 18 months
- Exceeding curriculum outcomes in English or Mathematics by 18 months

Sometimes ILPs will require parent support at home. This will be communicated to families on an individual basis if it is required.

Shared Expectations & 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 Spensley Street 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 Spensley Street 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
- 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/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, recreational, rest, 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.

Support for Students and Parents/Carers

Spensley 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.

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 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

Further Information & Resources

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

Policy Renew and Approval

<i>Policy last reviewed</i>	June 2023
<i>Approved by</i>	Principal, School Council
<i>Next scheduled review date</i>	June 2027