SOUTH YARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Help for non-English speakers
If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office on 98663424.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff South Yarra Primary School's expectations for homework.

To outline to our school community the Department's and South Yarra 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 South Yarra Primary School.

RATIONALE

South Yarra 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.

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

At South Yarra 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
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

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

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- completing science investigation exercises
- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising spelling words
- practising sports skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English
- reading background material for a subject
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- revising/preparing for tests
- completing online tasks using application software as set by class teacher, such as *Studyladder* or *Seesaw*
- 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
    - growing plants
    - 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.

South Yarra Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit students' personal and developmental needs.

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

Foundation to Year 4

In the early 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 responsibility and prepare them 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 or older siblings.

Students are generally expected to complete no more than 30 minutes of homework per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

Year 5 to Year 6

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 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 homework.

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.

South Yarra 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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at South Yarra 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 South Yarra 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)
- 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 (for upper year levels, 4,5 and 6).

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 and carers

South Yarra 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 with our school community in the following way:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Link included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Homework – Department Policy

POLICY REVIEW and APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2025
Consultation	Education Committee (05/09/2025) and School Council (16/09/2025)
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	September 2029