



# Homework Policy

<b>POLICY LAST REVIEWED</b>	July 2024	<b>APPROVAL BY</b>	Principal
<b>REVIEW CYCLE</b>	4 years	<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	Induction



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school on 9703 1187

## PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Fountain Gate 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 Fountain Gate Primary School.

## RATIONALE

Fountain Gate 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 Fountain Gate 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 Fountain Gate Primary School will include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- making or designing an artwork
- practising spelling words
- practising sports skills
- 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 assessments
- 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 parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
  - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

## 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** Fountain Gate 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** Fountain Gate 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.

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 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.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- The purpose of homework tasks is explained to students.
- There is a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
  - Foundation - Year 1: Reading every day Mon-Frid, approximately 15 minutes
  - Year 2: Reading as above. Spelling words, approximately 5 mins
  - Years 3-6: Approximately 1.5 hours per week for Years 3/4 and 2.5 hours per week for Years 5/6. This would consist of Reading, Spelling, Tables, unfinished work from class and specific project work. The form of the project work would depend on the topic that the class was working on. E.g. research, data collection, creative work, interviews etc. Homework could also be a compilation of different subjects, as long as it is related to current learning in the classroom. Children on Individual Learning Plans will have extra work to do at home.
- Homework should not be new work that has not been covered in class. The exception to this is when the task is a project, including research based tasks.
- Homework should have explicit instructions that parents can understand. Explanations should include what needs to be done, and how much parental input is appropriate and what assessment criteria will be used.
- Relevant due dates and tasks will be recorded in the student's diary. Communication between home and school regarding homework can also be recorded in the diary.
- No homework should be given during holidays
- Students should be given homework at an appropriate level to their ability.
- Homework is given on a regular basis so that everyone knows what to expect each week.
- There are high expectations about the standard of work completed as homework.
- Students are given appropriate feedback about their homework. Homework should be returned to students as soon as possible.
- Parents and students are aware that homework is the students' responsibility
- Whenever possible homework should engage children in independent study and problem solving, enhancing their enjoyment of learning.
- Failure to hand in homework will usually result in the child completing the homework at lunch/break time. If students regularly fail to complete homework, the class teacher will send home a letter regarding homework or make verbal contact, seeking parental support for homework completion. If parents do not support homework, students may be asked to continue to complete homework during the school week.

## SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Fountain Gate 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
- 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

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	31/07/24
Consultation	Year level leaders: Date School Council: Date
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	31/07/28