

HOMEWORK POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Mill Park Heights Primary School

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RATIONALE

The purpose of Homework is to provide students with tasks to be completed out of school hours with the aim to enrich student learning and compliment and connect to the classroom. It provides an opportunity for students to take responsibility for their learning and foster positive learning and study habits.

AIM

Mill Park Heights Primary School has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the students, staff and parent community. The aim of homework at Mill Park Heights Primary School is to:

- provide opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, strategies and concepts.
- provide opportunities for students to work towards individual learning goals.
- foster lifelong learning and study habits, such as time management and organisational skills.
- support learning partnerships with parents/caregivers.

DEFINITION

Homework comprises of teacher selected tasks or tasks negotiated with the student that are to be carried out during non-school hours.

BROAD GUIDELINES

At Mill Park Heights Primary School, all homework set by teachers will:

- be curriculum-aligned, purposeful and connected to the learning that is occurring in the classroom.
- incorporate individual student learning goals, where appropriate.
- be designed to support students to develop independence.
- be monitored by the classroom teacher, who will provide timely feedback.
- include wellbeing and specialist tasks where appropriate/relevant, which will be incorporated into the homework throughout each term.
- provide opportunities for parents/caregivers to partner in their child's learning, where appropriate.

IMPLEMENTATION

Mill Park Heights Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students. The incorporation of student learning goals within homework tasks ensures that homework is differentiated and allows all students to feel a sense of success when completing their weekly homework tasks.

Foundation

In Foundation, homework will consist mainly of:

- Daily reading to, with, and by parents, caregivers or older siblings.
- Tasks linked to individual learning goals and/or tasks aimed at reinforcing and applying concepts taught in class (5 minutes per night)

Years 1-2

In Years 1 and 2, homework will consist mainly of:

- Daily reading to, with, and by parents, caregivers or older siblings.
- Tasks linked to individual learning goals and/or tasks aimed at reinforcing and applying concepts taught in class (5 - 10 minutes per night).

*Homework will generally not exceed 20 minutes per day (including reading).

Years 3-6

In Years 3 - 6, homework will consist mainly of:

- Independent reading - 75 minutes (e.g. 15 minutes x 5 nights)
- Tasks linked to individual learning goals and/or tasks aimed at reinforcing and applying concepts taught in class (approximately 10-15 minutes per night).

*Homework will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day (including reading).

In Year 5 & 6, teachers may assign up to an additional 30 mins of homework a week to support a student with a specific individual goal that cannot be achieved within the timeframe above. The classroom teacher will discuss any additional homework with the student and the parent/caregiver at 3 Way Conferences/Parent Teacher Interviews to ensure that this is agreed upon by all parties. Upon agreement, the classroom teacher will support and monitor the additional homework and this agreement will be reviewed regularly.

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.

Mill Park Heights Primary School will support students by:

- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students.
- providing the community with a copy of the Homework Policy through the school newsletter in Term One each year.
- encouraging parents/caregivers to read to and with their children for enjoyment.
- ensuring that students record their daily independent reading.
- provide an avenue for regular communication between parents/caregivers and the school.
- ensuring incomplete homework does not equate to the withdrawal of specialist/subject specific school events or activities.

Teachers at Mill Park Heights Primary School will:

- provide meaningful tasks connected to student learning goals and/or learning that is happening in the classroom.
- provide flexible options to complete homework at home, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities.
- monitor weekly homework expectations and provide students with regular feedback.
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support.
- support students to develop organisational and time management skills.
- ensure parents/caregivers are aware of the school's Homework Policy.
- ensure that homework is available on relevant digital platforms for students and parents to discuss, such as Compass, Studyladder, Google Drive, OneNote or Google Classroom.
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and caregivers in becoming active partners in student learning.
- offer a variety of opportunities for families to engage with their child/children's learning.
- communicate with parents/caregivers if homework is consistently incomplete and discuss and set a realistic timeline for homework to be completed.
- chronicle non compliance homework concerns where the responsibility is not shared or supported.

Responsibilities and expectations of **students** at Mill Park Heights Primary School are to:

- accept responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames.
- create a daily time in their out of school hours schedule, to ensure that homework can be completed in the set time frame.
- organise their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities, to ensure homework tasks are completed on time.
- discuss homework expectations with their parents/caregivers.
- follow up on feedback provided by teachers.
- seek parental and/or teacher assistance when difficulties arise.
- take responsibility for incomplete homework tasks and negotiate a new timeline with the classroom teacher to ensure they catch up on set tasks.

Responsibilities and expectations of **parents/caregivers** at Mill Park Heights Primary School are to:

- create and support a daily time in their out of school hours schedule to ensure the student can complete the set homework.
- develop a positive and productive approach to homework.
- ensure there is a balance between the time spent on homework and other out of school activities.
- read to students and engage in daily learning discussions with them during everyday household routines and activities.
- discuss any concerns they have about homework with the classroom teacher.
- support the student to keep a record of their independent reading.
- link homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and the community.
- ensure there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.
- support the classroom teacher by working collaboratively with the school to ensure tasks are completed.
- communicate with the classroom teacher if tasks have been incomplete due to issues outside of school.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

Teachers at Mill Park Heights Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks or is spending long periods of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to the classroom teacher.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed biannually. This will involve taking into account teachers, students and parent feedback and DET recommendations and guidelines.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	28.3.2022
Consultation	Consultation with Students, Staff & Parent Community
Approved by	Chris Beare – Principal School Council Ratified ? /4/2022
Next scheduled review date	1.2.2024