

HOMework POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact our school office on 03 9309 7626.

PURPOSE

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

RATIONALE

As students progress through their schooling life, homework increasingly becomes more of an important aspect of their academic workload. At a primary school level, Bethal Primary School administers homework that enables students to consolidate their learning and allows for the opportunity to develop healthy study habits. Due to the limited evidence base regarding its efficacy in the early years, there is less emphasis on homework in the first few years of schooling, outside of a structured home reading program. From Grade Three onwards, students will have the opportunity to complete homework with an emphasis primarily on developing positive study habits and fostering independence when undertaking learning at home.

Bethal 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. This encompasses various aspects, such as home reading, access to online learning platforms and other teacher directed tasks.

POLICY

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

1. **Reading practise** to consolidate sounds and skills learnt in class. This may include reading word lists, home readers that are decodable texts, decodable e-books such as the Decodable Readers Australia series or books borrowed from the school library. A record of reading is kept in children's reading (F-2) or school diaries (5/6) which is then checked by the teacher regularly.
2. **Spelling practise** of words and patterns learnt in class as well as assigned tasks from Essential Assessment Spelling.
3. **Maths practise** of number skills such as counting, addition, multiplication, telling time, measuring objects assigned from Essential Assessment Numeracy.

We also encourage children to:

4. **Play** with friends or siblings after a full day of learning so children can continue to further develop their social skills and relationships, and physical skills and stamina.
5. **Participate in family life**, contributing to family events, meal preparation, shopping, gardening, pet care, etc.

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 Bethal 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 Bethal Primary School** are to:

- provide students with access to homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- 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.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Bethal 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 (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- 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	June 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2027