

# Gisborne Primary School

## Homework Policy



Policy Implementation Date - February 2019

Review Date – December 2020

Approved by School Council – December 2018

### Vision

For the whole school community to be engaged in a home/school partnership where everyone understands and values the importance of home learning to establish life-long learning habits.

### Purpose

This homework policy provides the guidelines and expectations regarding homework tasks for each year level.

### Definitions

**Homework** can be defined as “tasks assigned to students by school teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours” (Education and Training Committee, 2014).

The Department of Education categorises homework into:

- **Practise exercises** which provide opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills and may include reading for pleasure, practising spelling words, writing tasks, completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics and practising words/phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English.
- **Extension exercises** which encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively and may include writing a book review, researching local news, finding material on the internet, making or designing artwork, monitoring advertising in a newspaper, completing science investigation exercises

### Compliance Requirements

The Department of Education and Training Victoria state that *‘Schools must have a documented approach to homework which takes into account the personal and developmental needs of students. The setting of homework needs to take into consideration the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, sport, recreation and cultural pursuits.’*

The Department does not provide a policy to be used in schools, however provides guidelines and resources for schools to design and implement a homework policy in consultation with the school community, including the principal, teachers, school council, parents/carers and students.

## **Background**

### *The Value of Homework*

The Department believes that homework can support a comprehensive and balanced curriculum by fostering life-long learning and helping to build a strong home/school partnership by connecting families to their child's learning.

Homework can help students by:

- complementing and reinforcing classroom learning
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- providing an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning
- developing self-regulation processes such as goal-setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection and time management
- supporting partnerships with parents by connecting families with the learning of their children

## **Policy Points**

In accordance with the department guidelines, Gisborne Primary School will strive to ensure that homework set by teachers is:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- interesting, challenging and when appropriate open-ended
- assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided
- balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.

At Gisborne Primary School, homework will be set according to the following guidelines:

<b>Year Level</b>	<b>Time expectations per fortnight (excluding home reading)</b>
<b>Prep - Year 2</b>	20 minutes (broken into 5-10 min blocks)
<b>Years 3 -4</b>	40 minutes (broken into 10 min blocks)
<b>Years 5-6</b>	60 minutes (broken into 15 min blocks)

It is advised that these tasks be broken up across the fortnight to support students in developing organisational skills and a regular routine needed to complete homework tasks.

The homework types specified above are consistent with Department guidelines however the Department no longer provides an indication of appropriate homework duration, and there is no evidence to support a specific minimum amount of time being spent on homework. The above guidelines as to time are therefore provided on an indicative basis only.

## **Communication and Reporting**

The Gisborne Primary School Homework Policy will be distributed to parents at the commencement of each school year and on enrolment of new students. In addition, the Homework Tasks set each fortnight will be communicated to parents by class teachers via Seesaw.

## **Related School Policies**

Student Engagement Policy

## **References**

Department of Education and Training Victoria (2017). School Policy and Advisory Guide: Homework Expectations and Homework Guidelines.

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/expectations.aspx>

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx>

Education and Training Committee (2014). *Inquiry into the approaches to homework in Victorian schools.*

[https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/etc/Homework\\_Inquiry/Homework\\_Inquiry\\_final\\_report.pdf](https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/etc/Homework_Inquiry/Homework_Inquiry_final_report.pdf)