

Mount Evelyn Primary School

School Policies Manual



Home Learning Policy

Rationale:

Home Learning benefits students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Home Learning creates a partnership between parents, students and teachers.

Mount Evelyn 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.

Aim:

- To outline to our school community the home learning policy requirements of the Department of Education and Training and Mount Evelyn Primary School.
- This policy applies to students in all year levels the staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Mount Evelyn Primary School

Implementation:

At Mount Evelyn 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 Mount Evelyn 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 for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work

- revising/preparing for tests
- 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.

Leaders at Mount Evelyn 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.

Teachers at Mount Evelyn 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.

Students at Mount Evelyn Primary School are required to:

- be aware of the school's homework policy
- discuss homework expectations with their parents/carers
- accept responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- follow up on feedback given by teachers
- seek assistance when difficulties arise
- organise their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment (for older students).

Parents/carers at Mount Evelyn Primary School are expected to:

- ensure there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talk to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discuss homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, link 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.
- ensure there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

In the Early Years (Foundation – 4)

Completing home learning activities should be a positive family experience. It can foster a sense of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare students for more senior classes. Homework at this level may include:

- extension of class work by practising skills, words or gathering extra information or materials in an enjoyable way.
- reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings. Reading for enjoyment is encouraged at all times.
- the completion of unfinished classroom tasks

In the Middle Years (Levels 5-6)

Completing home learning activities should continue to be a positive family experience. It can foster a sense of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare students for secondary school. Homework at this level may include:

- daily independent reading. Reading for enjoyment is encouraged at all times.
- may include extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research.
- teachers may assign unfinished classroom activities as home learning tasks.

Support for students and families

Mount Evelyn 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.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on: August 12th, 2020