Colac South West Primary School 4775

Respect Engage Achieve Care Honesty

Colac South West Primary School is a Child Safe School

HOMEWORK POLICY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the **Colac South West Primary School** office.

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Colac South West 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 **Colac South West Primary School**.

RATIONALE

Colac South West 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

Colac South West Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers at **Colac South West Primary School** are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise of reading, spelling, grammar, maths and project work.

At **Colac South West 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 **Colac South West 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 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 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.

The following homework expectations are based around the Junior and Senior year levels of our school.

Prep to Year 2

In Prep to Year 2, the objective of homework is to practise and consolidate what the students have been learning during class time. It is also intended to form habits around organisation and responsibility. Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day.

Homework tasks set for Prep to Year 2 will consist of 15 minutes of nightly reading to an adult or older sibling. This needs to be recorded (diary or reading log) and signed by an adult. Students will also practise high frequency word lists to develop automatic recall of these words. In addition to this, students may be given spelling word lists once automatic recall of them has been achieved.

As an added option, students are provided with a Literacy Planet log in card to enable them to complete tasks at home.

Year 3 to Year 6

In Year 3 to Year 6, the objective of homework is to build on what the students have been learning in class and to explore real life experiences relating to their learning. It is also intended to consolidate good study habits as well as organisation and responsibility. Students are generally not expected to spend more than 30 minutes per day on homework tasks.

Homework tasks set for Year 3 to Year 6 consist of 15 minutes of nightly reading, either independently or to an adult. English homework is set weekly or fortnightly and students are required to complete set spelling, grammar and vocabulary activities of no longer than one page. Maths tasks are set for students to complete and regular practice of times tables is expected.

On occasions students from Prep to Year 6 may undertake homework of a different nature e.g. projects, investigations, interviews or real life tasks.

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 Colac South West 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 Colac South West 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
- avoid setting homework that requires the use of a digital device. This does not prevent students from choosing to use digital devices to support their homework where appropriate
- 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.

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

Colac South West 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 (Referenced in staff handbook/manual)
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed during PLC Team meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment information
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request
- Discussed at student forums

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Homework – Department Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2022
Consultation	Staff & School Council – August 2026
Approved by	Xavier Davis, Principal - August 2026
Next review date	August 2030 (every 3-4 years)

Appendix 1 – Table of scheduled homework expectations per year level.

N.B. To be finalised by teachers and shared by February 28 each year.

Year Level		
Prep		
Year 1 / 2		
Year 3 / 4		
Year 5 / 6		