HOMEWORK POLICY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office.

PURPOSE

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

Rationale

Strathmore North Primary school has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council and the community 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

At Strathmore North Primary school all homework set by teachers will be:

- no more than the year level of the child multiplied by 10 minutes per day (e.g. Year 2 = no more than 20 minutes). This is with the exception of Foundation students, who would also be encouraged to complete 10 minutes per weekday
- 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; and
- not set over holiday periods, unless advised by the classroom teacher.

The types of homework that teachers at Strathmore North Primary school may include are:

- reading to, with and by parents/ carers or older siblings in Year Foundation – through to year 4 and independent reading in Years 5-6
- practising counting or mathematics goals
- practising spelling words and handwriting
- applying new skills in a 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 a favourite film, book or album
    - writing a diary entry or letter
- engaging with parents/carers in learning activities such as:
    - rehearsing a presentation and seeking feedback
    - interviewing a family member, friend or neighbour 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. The school does not condone consequences, such as detention or homework club, for non-completion of homework. However, students who do not complete homework on a regular basis will be followed up with parents/carers.

Responsibilities and expectations for **the Principal** at Strathmore North 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 this homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers** at Strathmore North 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
- reinforce the value to students of completing purposeful homework
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback or recognition as well as appropriate support where appropriate

- 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 parents/carers to engage in their children's learning
- communicate to students and parents/carers, on a periodical basis, in regard to the ongoing homework expectations; and
- consider and cater for the students with limited IT access (including devices and internet) when setting homework with a digital component.

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 feedback from teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise; and
- 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
- promoting the importance and routine for completing homework
- 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; and
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Strathmore North 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.
If parents/carers do not wish their child to complete homework, they should put this in writing noting the rationale to the classroom teacher.

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)
- reminders in our school newsletter
- discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Homework – Department Policy

Policy review and approval

Policy last reviewed	December 2024
Consultation	School Council, December 2024 Community Engagement Sub-committee, December 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	December 2028