

# HOMEWORK POLICY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office on [ripponlea.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:ripponlea.ps@education.vic.gov.au) or 9527 5728.

## PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Ripponlea Primary School's [RPS] policy requirements relating to homework.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at RPS.

## RATIONALE

RPS 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

At RPS all homework set by the 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 RPS will include are:

Years	Home Learning
Foundation to Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/carers, older siblings or independently.</li> <li>• May include the extension of class learning by practising skills or gathering of extra information or materials as set by the year level.</li> <li>• Mathletics, Reading Eggs (F-2) and Seesaw programs.</li> </ul>
Grade 5 and 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will mainly consist of daily independent reading.</li> <li>• May extend class learning, projects/assignments and research.</li> <li>• May take place where students need to ask for assistance and advice from a parent/carer or outside source.</li> </ul>

## BACKGROUND

There is strong evidence that homework at the primary school level has little impact on academic performance. Children get greater benefits if you take the time to play family games, discuss news items from the newspaper or TV, visit places of social, historic or natural interest, cook together, garden together or build together. These activities make learning interesting and enjoyable and encourage children to see the value in becoming lifelong learners.

For this reason, RPS does not issue formal, regular homework.

## 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 RPS 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 RPS 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.

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**

RPS 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
- 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
Consultation	School Council June 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	May 2027