Fitzroy North Primary School

Homework Policy

HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Fitzroy North Primary School on 03 9481 5860 or fitzroy.north.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

1. PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Fitzroy North Primary School's policy requirements relating to homework.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Fitzroy North Primary School.

3. RATIONALE

Fitzroy North 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.

Through the homework program at Fitzroy North Primary School, we recognise the importance of striking a balance between supporting the academic development of students and outside-of-school activities, including recreational, family and cultural activities.

4. DEFINITIONS

Homework is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

5. POLICY

At Fitzroy North 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, designed to provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

Throughout the early years and middle years at Fitzroy North Primary School any homework tasks are focused on consolidating core literacy and numeracy skills learnt at school, including reading. In the upper-primary years, there are increased opportunities to consolidate learning and to support the development of study habits in preparation for high school.

The types of homework that teachers at Fitzroy North Primary School may provide include:

- Regularly reading at home, including reading aloud with an adult
- Practising spelling words
- Consolidating maths or reading skills through digital programs
- Practising sports skills
- Researching topics associated with set class work
- 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 parents/carers, and seeking their feedback
  - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

6. 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 Fitzroy 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 the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for teachers at Fitzroy 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
- 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.

7. SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Fitzroy 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.

8. COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

9. RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Homework – Department Policy

10. POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2024
Consultation	Policy and Curriculum Committee (School Council Subcommittee): March 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2028