

Seaford Primary School HOMEWORK POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact 9786 1357

PURPOSE

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

RATIONALE

Seaford 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
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

At Seaford Primary School, **reading is the main focus of homework** across all year levels. Daily reading has a strong impact on learning, supporting vocabulary, comprehension, and independent thinking.

John Hattie's research shows that **homework in primary school has a low effect size** unless it is purposeful and reinforces key skills.

*'Homework has been found to have no effect on the progress of primary school children. To get it right without getting rid of it, children at primary level should be given **less projects and more activities** that reinforce what they learnt in the lesson that day instead'*

Whilst homework does make more of a difference to secondary school children, too much emphasis is placed on it. **5-10 minutes of practising what was taught that day** at school has the same effect as 1-2 hours does.

Reading, however, stands out as a high-impact activity when done consistently.

Other tasks may be given **when the teacher sees a clear learning purpose**, but our priority is to keep homework manageable, meaningful, and supportive of student growth.

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

At Seaford 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.

Homework Expectations at Seaford Primary School

F-2	Students in Foundation to Year 2 are expected to complete approximately 10 minutes of reading each night. This includes: • Reading their decodable book and tricky (sight) words • Sharing a picture book with a family member to promote reading for pleasure We encourage families to make this a positive, relaxed time to enjoy books together and support your child's growing confidence as a reader.
3-4	Students in Years 3 and 4 are expected to complete 10–15 minutes of independent reading each night. They are also encouraged to begin building stamina by reading for longer, sustained periods of up to 30 minutes as their reading confidence grows. Reading regularly helps develop comprehension, vocabulary, and a love of books.
5-6	Students in Years 5 and 6 are expected to complete 15-20 minutes of independent reading each night.

	They are strongly encouraged to read for longer and more regular sustained periods , aiming for 30 minutes or more as part of their daily routine. Developing consistent reading habits supports deeper comprehension, critical thinking, and a lifelong appreciation of reading.
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Other types of homework that teachers at Seaford Primary School may set:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- Practising maths fluency skills such as multiplication facts
- Practising spelling words
- reading English texts prior to class discussion

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 Seaford 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 Seaford 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), the homework reinforces key skills.
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- 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

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

Seaford 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
- Available publicly on our school's website: <https://www.seafordps.vic.edu.au/>
- Included in staff Google Drive
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2025
Consultative committee and School Council	October 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	October 2029