



### Help for Non-English Speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Kalinda Primary School on (03) 9876 3289.

## HOMEWORK POLICY

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff at Kalinda Primary School (Kalinda PS) the expectations for homework and at-home learning.

The setting of homework can be seen as one way of:

- complementing and reinforcing classroom learning
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- developing self-regulation processes such as goal setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection and time management
- supporting partnerships with parents/carers by connecting families with the learning of their children.

The effectiveness of homework can be enhanced when:

- it is set at an appropriate level for each student, supporting those who are experiencing difficulty and extending those of high-ability
- it is related to essential learning at school
- choice in tasks is provided
- it is assessed by teachers, either formally or informally, with feedback provided
- it supports students to have a balance of school-related and non-school related activity in their lives (i.e. where the amount of homework set provides sufficient additional time for students to engage with family, sport and recreation, cultural pursuits and employment, where appropriate).

Kalinda PS 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.

### SCOPE

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

### POLICY

At Kalinda PS 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
- tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.



Teachers at Kalinda PS 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 or practice exercises.

The types of homework that teachers at Kalinda PS 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.

#### **Prep to Year 4**

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time.

Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings.

Sight or spelling words will also be sent home for revision. On some occasions, a separate small project such as a presentation may be issued, students will be given one or more weeks to complete this task.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day.

#### **Year 5 and Year 6**

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.

Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading and may also include extension assignments, unfinished class work or research.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on 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.



Kalinda Primary School No. 5121

Kalinda PS will support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools
- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and providing them with a copy of the homework policy
- encouraging parents/carers to read to and with their children for enjoyment.

Teachers at Kalinda PS will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- provide timely and practical feedback and support for tasks given
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage with their children.

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- 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.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- 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, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

### **Support for Students, Parents and Carers**

Teachers at Kalinda PS understand that students have different learning styles and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently.

If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set, or your child is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to their classroom teacher, Team Leader or Assistant Principal.

### **COMMUNICATION**

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

- included in staff induction processes and staff training



Kalinda Primary School No. 5121

- available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- included in staff handbook/manual
- through 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
- available from school administration in hard copy upon request.

#### RELATED POLICIES

- [Homework – Department of Education and Training Policy](#)

#### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2026