

# HOME LEARNING POLICY



## Help for non-English speakers

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

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Diamond Creek Primary School's expectations for home learning and at-home learning.

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

## Rationale:

- Home Learning benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering life-long study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

## Aims:

- To support, consolidate and extend classroom learning.
- To develop positive study habits.
- To develop a responsibility for self-learning.

## POLICY

Diamond Creek Primary School acknowledges that home learning should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers at Diamond Creek Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate and meaningful for their students. This may comprise of reading, practice exercises or extension tasks.

## Implementation:

- The school's Home Learning policy will be included on the school's website.
- Each Area's Home Learning expectations will be discussed at parent information sessions
- Classroom teachers will set Home Learning appropriate to each student's skill level and age
- Each set task will be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum
- All Home Learning activities will be reviewed with appropriate feedback and support provided by teachers.
- The school's website will include useful educational links for individual student/family choice.
- Home Learning is the student's responsibility but parental support is to be encouraged.
- If the student has difficulty with any aspect of home learning this should be communicated to the student's teacher.
- Unfinished class tasks, where the student has had appropriate class time to complete, may be required to be completed at home
- The details of Home Learning tasks for each different level are as follows:

## Foundation to Year 4

In the early years, the objective of home learning should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce and reinforce the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and prepare the students for the expectations of the upper grades.

Assigned home learning tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.

Home learning will mainly consist of daily reading, independently or with assistance as required.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of home learning per day and no home learning tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays (unless families choose this as a more convenient time for home learning for their children or if students ask for home learning tasks).

**At the Foundation level,** Home Learning will consist mainly of:

- Reading each night to, with and by parents
- Revision and practise of sight words and Write to Read codes

**At levels 1 & 2,** Home Learning will consist mainly of:

- Reading on a daily basis; independently or with assistance as required.
- Weekly spelling and maths tasks.
- Simple consolidation and extension tasks associated with classroom activities.
- Projects will not be assigned to grade 1.2 students
  - *Home Learning task for students at levels 1 and 2 will generally not exceed 15 minutes per day and will not be set on weekends or during holidays*

### At levels 3 & 4

At Levels 3 and 4, Home Learning will consist mainly of:

- Reading on a daily basis; independently or with assistance as required
- Weekly spelling tasks
- Times tables and number facts practice
- Any projects assigned will be largely school-based projects and only assigned after study of the topic at school.
  - *Home Learning tasks for students at levels 3 and 4 will vary upon the classroom focus at the time and will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day.*

## Year 5 to Year 6

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

Assigned home learning tasks will include daily independent reading and may include extension tasks, class work, projects and research.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on home learning and no home learning tasks will be assigned during the holidays unless requested by parents or students.

**At levels Years 5& 6,** Home Learning will consist mainly of:

- Reading on a daily basis; independently or with assistance as required
- Weekly spelling tasks
- Times tables and number facts practice
- An independent Inquiry project which will be assigned each term, based on the unit of study being undertaken. This project will form part of the classroom assessment schedule.
  - *Home Learning tasks for students at levels 5 and 6 will vary upon the classroom focus at the time and will generally not exceed 45 minutes per day (which includes 20 minutes of reading).*
  - *Students at levels 5 and 6 who do not complete their home learning tasks by the due date will receive an appropriate consequence or will be asked to complete it during break times.*
  - *Personal iPads will be used for some Home Learning tasks.*

## **Shared expectations and responsibilities**

Home learning is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of home learning tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Diamond Creek Primary School 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 home learning policy is relevant to the needs of students;
- Advising parents/carers of home learning expectations at the beginning of the school year and providing them with a copy of the home learning policy;
- Encouraging parents/carers of primary school aged children to read to and with their children; and
- Ensuring that for all students there is communication between parents and the school re home learning expectations.

Teachers at Diamond Creek Primary School will:

- Equip students with the skills to solve problems;
- Encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination;
- Set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs;
- Give students enough time to complete home learning, considering home obligations and extra curricular activities;
- Assess home learning and provide timely and practical feedback and support;
- Help students develop organisational and time-management skills;
- Ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's home learning policy;
- Develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in home learning; and
- Offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage with their children in regards to home learning.

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

- Being aware of the school's home learning policy;
- Discussing with their parents/carers home learning expectations;
- Accepting responsibility for the completion of home learning tasks within set time frames;
- Following up on comments made by teachers;
- Seeking assistance when difficulties arise; and
- 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 home learning;
- Ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on home learning and recreational activities;
- Reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity (cooking);
- Talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the home learning;
- Attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in;
- Ensuring students complete home learning tasks as assigned;
- Discussing home learning with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences;
- Linking home learning and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community; and
- Ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their home learning tasks.

## **Support for students, parents and carers**

Teachers at Diamond Creek Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and home learning differently. If parents are concerned that their child may not understand the home learning tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their home learning, they should discuss this with the teachers concerned.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

Department of Education and Training School Policy and Advisory Guide:

- [Home learning Guidelines](#)
- [Home learning Expectations](#)

### **REVIEW CYCLE**

This policy is listed for review on the school's policy review schedule.