



# HOME LEARNING POLICY

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## PURPOSE

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

## SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring home learning at Malvern Valley Primary School.

## RATIONALE

Home learning benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering positive study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. Home learning strengthens the partnership between school and home, allowing parents to take an active role in their child's learning.

Malvern Valley Primary School has developed this Home Learning 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

**Home learning** relates to tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

## POLICY

At Malvern Valley Primary School all home learning set by teachers will be:

- purposeful and relevant (e.g. linked to learning activities at school)
- 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.

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.

### Prep to Grade 2

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 the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility.

Home learning for Prep-2s will mainly consist of daily reading to, with or by parents/carer or older siblings for a minimum of 10 – 15 minutes. Additional home learning tasks will be assigned as required.

### **Grade 3/4**

In the middle years, home learning is intended to continue to practise and consolidate concepts introduced in class and develop skills in self-discipline and responsibility to prepare students for the upper grades.

Home learning in Grade 3/4 will include daily reading to, with or by parents/carer or older siblings for a minimum of 20 minutes.

Additional tasks will be assigned from any of the curriculum areas. Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of home learning per day and home learning task timeframes may go across weekends or school holidays.

### **Grade 5/6**

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 for Grade 5/6 will include daily independent reading (minimum 20 minutes per day) and additional assignments, class work and research.

Home learning tasks will be assigned from any of the curriculum areas. Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on home learning and home learning task timeframes may go across weekends or school holidays.

### **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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Malvern Valley Primary School School** are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/carers of home learning expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the Home Learning Policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Malvern Valley Primary School** are to:

- set home learning that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure home learning 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 home learning and provide timely and practical feedback
- ensure the amount of home learning 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:

- discussing home learning expectations with their parents/carers
- 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
- 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 home learning and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about home learning
- discussing home learning with their child

- in dialogue, linking home learning 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 home learning tasks.

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

Malvern Valley Primary School understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach home learning differently. If parents/carers are concerned their child may not understand the home learning tasks that have been set or are spending a long period of time completing their home learning, we encourage parents/carers to speak to their child's teacher.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

## **REVIEW CYCLE**

This policy was last updated 2020 and is scheduled for review in 2023.