

HOMework POLICY

This policy was last ratified by School Council on **October 2022**

An important role of parents, when it comes to homework, is to foster the love of learning!

RATIONALE

Homework continues to be a controversial topic. The Curriculum team has spent significant time researching how best to provide an effective homework program. The following policy is a result of the research conducted into best practice and feedback from students, parents and teachers of Buninyong P.S.

At Buninyong Primary School our Homework Program aims to provide students with the opportunity to:

- ◆ Develop effective study habits and organisational skills.
- ◆ Practise and revise skills learnt in class
- ◆ Tune-in to future learning opportunities.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- ◆ Expectations for homework will be set early in the year and communicated with parents in Term 1's year level newsletter.
- ◆ Homework will be personalised by classroom teachers to suit student needs.
- ◆ The date Homework starts and is due will be consistent across the whole school for all grade levels. Homework will be given out on Friday and due the following Thursday.
- ◆ Homework tasks should be attainable by students, with minimal assistance/supervision
- ◆ Time spent on homework should gradually increase as the child moves up through the school
- ◆ Homework will receive a response from the teacher upon completion appropriate to the homework task
- ◆ Set homework should be completed with parent signature by the due date. If this is not possible the teacher should be informed
- ◆ Homework will be recorded in an agreed format which will be consistent at each year level.
- ◆ Teachers will record homework completion on Compass which parents can access at any time.
- ◆ Student homework habits will be reflected in reports.

IMPLEMENTATION

It is expected that all students complete a minimum of 15 mins reading every school night and record this in a reading log.

Below is a table with guidelines for homework, beyond the nightly reading, that you could expect at each year level across the school. These times are weekly. ie Your child in Year 3 could expect 40 minutes of homework activities each week.

PREP	10 min
GRADE 1	20 min
GRADE 2	30 min
GRADE 3	40 min
GRADE 4	50 min
GRADE 5	60 min.
GRADE 6	70 min.

Tips to foster great study habits.

- Provide a designated space for homework.
- Negotiate with your child about when and how long they should spend on homework – spend short amounts of time regularly.
- Make the time enjoyable. Try to avoid worrying over whether or not it is completed/right or wrong. Your child will gain more from the process of doing homework nightly and see this as a time to value rather than to avoid.
- It is your child's work, if they need help, encourage them to see the teacher the following day.
- Model great work habits, sit near by doing some work of your own.

If you are finding homework is taking longer than the guidelines indicate, please encourage your child to see their classroom teacher.

Below are some examples of the different types of Homework you could expect. The following examples will be consistent at a year level and appropriate to student ability.

Home reading:

Home reading should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for both student and family, an experience that fosters a love of books and reading.

Students are expected to read at least five nights per week for a minimum of fifteen minutes. In the early years reading can be read aloud to another, share the reading with another or listen to another read. Discussions with your children about the book are most beneficial. Every book that is read must be recorded in the reading log.

Books should be at a level that promotes enjoyment, engagement, understanding and fluency. Books should not be so challenging that the student becomes disengaged or frustrated with the level of difficulty. The book should be "Just Right" for every student.

Word Study:

Promoting a positive approach towards correct spelling and a curiosity about words and how spelling works underpins all word study homework.

Words will be organised for students to study and learn according to individual or group needs. These may be high usage or common words that students need for writing, they may

be practising and learning a particular letter pattern or spelling rule, or they may be words related to a specific topic being studied at that time.

Maths:

Maths homework, as with Home Reading, should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for both student and family, an experience which consolidates learning and fosters a love of Mathematics.

Maths homework will be structured so that it presents students with opportunities to reinforce learning that has taken place in class, problem solve using learning that has taken place in class or practise number facts that are appropriate to the level of the student. Mathematics is a great tool that our school is using. We encourage use of this program at home.

Integrated Studies:

Throughout each term every grade will have a different focus. It can vary from Pets to Antarctica to Local Government. You will be notified by the class teacher through a class newsletter what that topic will be for the term. Your assistance in helping your child develop a greater understanding and wider vocabulary will be highly valued.

Positive Family Engagement Activities:

Family life is increasingly busy with afterschool activities, clubs and everyday activities like shopping becoming increasingly present. In order to acknowledge the benefits of sharing time together as a family, positive engagement activities may be set as homework activities. Tasks such as sharing a book or newspaper, helping with the shopping, completing a chore or participating in a family outing to explore the world can assist in developing skills such as communication, organisation, empathy and resilience to enhance family life.

RESPONSIBILITIES: In order for a successful Homework program to operate:

Teachers will:

- ◆ Ensure homework is differentiated to match the student needs or ability.
- ◆ Provide a 30min dedicated Homework session each Thursday to check and provide feedback to students.
- ◆ Record homework completion on Compass. Homework tracking will be available for parents to access at any time.
- ◆ Maintain a positive reinforcement model to acknowledge the effort made to complete homework.
- ◆ Monitor and provide a response to all homework appropriate to the task. (This could be a signature, score, rubric or written comment)
- ◆ Ensure reading books that go home with students are either familiar texts or 'just right' for their reading ability.
- ◆ Indicate on reports a judgement on study and organisational skills.

Parents will:

- ◆ Provide an opportunity for their child to develop a routine to help develop good homework habits
- ◆ Support their child when challenged by the homework task by:
 - discussing the issues with their child.
 - encourage their child to seek support from teacher.
 - Lastly, seek support from the classroom teacher.
- ◆ Sign completed homework.
- ◆ Support their child by providing a quiet space, resources, time and support when needed.

Students will:

- ◆ Return Homework tasks on time.
- ◆ Discuss with their parents effective study habits and organisational skills.
- ◆ Discuss concerns with parents and then with classroom teacher should the need arise.

EVALUATION

The Homework Policy will be reviewed annually by the Curriculum team.