

Merimbula Public School

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Homework Program Policy 2018/9



RATIONALE:

Merimbula Public School has developed a school Homework Program Policy, in consultation with school community members, in order to ensure inclusivity and fairness to all students and families.

This policy reflects departmental policy and the desires of the school community. It has been developed as a result of reflection on previous policies and practices as well as feedback provided to us through surveys.

Homework is a valuable part of schooling, allowing for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. It provides training for students in planning, time organisation and using information resources. It also establishes study habits, concentration and self-discipline.

This policy has been written to inform all school community members that homework tasks are provided to support individual students in consolidating their learning where needed, and in supporting students to develop the above skills and learning habits. Participation is encouraged however non-completion of homework will not be punished as it is **not** compulsory.

AIMS:

The aim of this Homework Policy is to:

- Clearly communicate to our school community our homework expectations;
- Recognise the rights of children to enjoy a balanced lifestyle;
- Provide points of reference for families to go to, if they so wish for their child to extend their learning.

PROCESS:

Students **are not** expected to complete a set worksheet each week however, guidelines are provided for parents who wish to provide their children with further learning opportunities should they wish to do so. **The Homework Program provided by our school for families includes:**

In Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2:

Students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 are encouraged to take part in a range of activities, such as:

- Reading with their parents/taking part in board games and other activities (See the Fact Sheets in the 'Handouts' section of our website for ways you can assist your child's development of literacy and numeracy skills at home).
- Home readers will be provided for children to read to and with their families, as part of the Home Reading

Program. Students are provided with a Home Reading Log to help encourage them to read regularly.

- Families are encouraged to support their child in revising literacy and numeracy skills the child is learning as communicated via the school newsletter. This may include literacy and numeracy skills they need to revise as reported in their Semester 1 or 2 school report or PLAN report.
- The iMaths program, funded by the school, can also be accessed online by students to complete tasks at home. Each child is provided with a password at the start of the year.
- Students have access to the Soundwaves program online, also funded by the school. Students are also given a Soundwaves password at the start of the year.
- Students are encouraged to prepare for set 'Speaking and Listening' tasks. Students will not be forced to complete preparation at home however, they will still be required to participate in related public speaking during class time.

In Years 3 and 4 (Stage 2):

Students in Years 3 and 4 have the following opportunities to take part in the Homework Program. Whilst no weekly homework is set, children are encouraged to:

- Read aloud or silently each night at home. This may include taking part in the Home Reading Program (for targeted students and those who opt to take part) and completing a Reading Log.
- Revising literacy and numeracy skills they are learning, with the support of their parent/caregiver, as communicated via the school newsletter or via their school or PLAN report where areas to work on may have been mentioned.
- The iMaths (mathematics) and Soundwaves (spelling) programs can also be accessed by Year 3 and 4 students.
- Students are encouraged to prepare for set Speaking and Listening tasks (1-2 per semester). Students will not be forced to complete preparation at home however they will still be required to participate in related public speaking during class time.
- Complete unit related assignments/projects (Semester 2). These assignments may be presented in a range of ways (as outlined in the task overview).
- These tasks, provided over an extended length of time, assist with the transition to high school and encourage time management skills. Some of these tasks, ones

which class time has been provided for, are compulsory however, students may choose to work on the tasks at home as well as, at school.

In Years 5 and 6 (Stage 3):

Students in Years 5 and 6 have the following opportunities to participate in the Homework Program. Whilst no weekly homework is set, children are encouraged to:

- Read aloud or silently each night at home. This may include taking part in the Home Reading Program (for targeted students) and completing a Reading Log.
- Revising literacy and numeracy skills they are learning, with the support of their parent/caregiver, as communicated via the school newsletter. *For example, Stage 3 students will always be encouraged to revise their times tables if they do not know them all (An end of Year 4 outcome).*
- The iMaths (mathematics) and Soundwaves (spelling) programs can also be accessed by Year 5 and 6.
- Students are encouraged to prepare for set Speaking and Listening tasks (1-2 per semester). Students will not be forced to complete preparation at home however they will still be required to participate in related public speaking during class time.
- Complete unit related assignments/projects (Terms 2-4). These assignments may be presented in a range of ways (as outlined in the task overview). These projects are also more complex at times, in preparing students for high school and in getting them to develop research skills taught in class.

Other Optional Activities:

Students across the school are often invited to take part in academic competitions in: Mathematics, writing, poetry, visual arts, multicultural speaking, spelling, and 'Science, Technology and Mathematics' (STEM). These competitions are voluntary and information is provided to students when competitions occur.

Extra-curricular activity participation, such as participation within a musical as a lead character or participation in a musical tutorial group, is voluntary. Participation in these groups is based on the expectation that students practise at home.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT:

Students of Merimbula Public School are expected to enjoy a balanced lifestyle.

Students participating in the Home Reading Program are responsible for borrowing their home reading books and/or school library resources for reading (and returning them).

Students are also responsible for remembering their iMaths/Soundwaves password and/or keeping their printed password in a safe and accessible place at home, should they wish to complete tasks outside of school hours.

Students who opt to participate in optional homework projects, volunteer arts and/or music groups should complete the set tasks/practise when required.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENT/CAREGIVER:

Parents and or caregivers are expected to support the school in the implementation of the school Homework Program Policy.

Parents and or caregivers can arrange to meet with their child's teacher if they would like further suggestions on how to support their child's learning at home.

Parents/carers are to support their child in completing homework: set by the class teacher (for class/Stage-based tasks and follow-up work); and set by the Principal in consultation with the class teacher/s (for students on extended leave or suspension).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF EMPLOYEES:

Teachers of Merimbula Public School are expected to participate in the development of the school Homework Policy and support its effective implementation. It is expected that any homework activities/term tasks set are relevant and follow up on learning that has taken place in class. Speeches and other presentation task work for example, will be modelled by teachers during class time prior to being assigned as homework.

It is not the responsibility of teachers to provide work for children should they choose not to attend school for leave or other reasons.

The Principal of Merimbula Public School is to oversee the implementation of the Homework Policy.

The Principal is to provide parents and or caregivers with set work for their child to complete at home, if a child is suspended from school in accord with the *Suspension and Expulsion of School Students Policy and Procedures*.

MONITORING AND PROCEDURES:

Whilst the school Homework Program is not compulsory, student participation in the program will be identified as a voluntary activity within a student's Semester 1 or 2 Report.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Access to Soundwaves and iMaths is provided and paid for by Merimbula Public School. Students are able to access drills and activities at home.

To make Homework Program tasks more relevant and meaningful, they will be outlined and marked in class as well as, addressing current work units. Expectations for presentation and content will be shared with students, and at times a formal marking rubric will be provided.

EVALUATION: This policy will be evaluated every three years by the school in consultation with the Parents and Citizen's Association of Merimbula Public School. *Implementation – May 1, 2018.*



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