



TRARALGON SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the General Office on (03) 5195 5244.

PURPOSE:

To outline to our school community the Department of Education and Training's (DET) and Traralgon South Primary School's policy requirements relating to homework.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Traralgon South Primary School.

RATIONALE:

Traralgon South Primary School 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; and
- Supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

DEFINITIONS:

Homework is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

POLICY:

1. At Traralgon South Primary School, all homework set by teachers will be:
 - a. Purposeful;
 - b. Curriculum-aligned;

- c. Appropriate to students' skill level and age;
 - d. Designed to help students develop as independent learners;
 - e. Monitored by the teacher; and
 - f. Where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.
2. Teachers at Traralgon South Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and are meaningful. For example, this may comprise of:
- a. Completing consolidation exercises for mathematics;
 - b. Completing science investigation exercises;
 - c. Making or designing an artwork;
 - d. Practising and playing musical instruments;
 - e. Practising spelling words;
 - f. Practising sports skills;
 - g. Practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English;
 - h. Reading background material for a subject;
 - i. Reading English texts prior to class discussion;
 - j. Reading for pleasure;
 - k. Researching topics associated with set class work;
 - l. Revising/preparing for tests;
 - m. Applying new skills to home context such as:
 - i. Planning and cooking food, including following a recipe;
 - ii. Helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs;
 - iii. Growing plants;
 - iv. Reviewing their favourite film or book;
 - v. Writing a diary entry;
 - n. Engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
 - i. Rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback;
 - ii. Interviewing a family member as part of a research project.
3. **Prep to Year 4:**
- a. In the early years, the objective of homework 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 and prepare them for the upper grades.
 - b. Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.
 - c. Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings, but may also include VCOP Big Write preparation (talk homework), spelling words, and tasks associated with MAPPEN independent inquiries.

4. Year 5 to Year 6:

- a. 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.
- b. Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading and may include extension assignments, class work, VCOP Big Write preparation (talk homework), spelling words, and tasks associated with MAPPEN independent inquiries such as essays and research.
- c. Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

5. Shared Expectations and Responsibilities:

- a. 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.
- b. Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Traralgon South Primary School** are to:
 - i. Advise teachers, students and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.
- c. Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Traralgon South Primary School** are to:
 - i. Set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age;
 - ii. Ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning;
 - iii. Assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback;
 - iv. Ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours; and
 - v. Offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.
- d. Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:
 - i. Being aware of the school's homework policy;
 - ii. Discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers;
 - iii. Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames;
 - iv. Following up on comments made by teachers;
 - v. Seeking assistance when difficulties arise; and
 - vi. Organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment (for older students).
- e. Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:
 - i. Ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities;
 - ii. Talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework;
 - iii. Discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home;
 - iv. In dialogue, linking homework to:
 - o previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had;
 - o family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s);

- relevant services, clubs, associations and community.
- v. Ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

6. Support for Students, Parents and Carers:

Teachers at Traralgon South Primary School understand that students have different learning styles and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If there are concerns that a child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, parents and carers are encouraged to speak to their classroom teacher or Principal.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

REVIEW CYCLE:

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 16 May 2022 and is scheduled for review in 2025.