**HEPBURN Primary School**

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**Established 1864 No. 767**

**Homework Policy**.

**Rationale:**

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

* develop study and organisational skills
* practise and revise skills learnt in class
* learn to be independent learners
* Prepare the senior children for transition to secondary school.

**Implementation-homework should:**

* be appropriate to the student's skill level and age
* be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
* be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
* Include feedback and support if required.

**Guiding Principles:**

* Expectations for homework will be set early in the year. Parents will be notified.
* The date homework starts and is due will be consistent across the whole school for all grade levels. Homework will begin in week 3 each year and week for each term thereafter.
* Homework tasks should be attainable by students, with minimal assistance or supervision.
* Time spent on homework should gradually increase as the child moves up through the school.
* All homework should receive a response from the teacher, such as a signature.
* All set homework should be completed by the due date. If this is not possible the teacher should be informed.
* Parents will be notified where a child regularly fails to complete homework tasks.

Homework expectations will be outlined and communicated to parents at the beginning of each term via a class note. This information, and pertinent reminders, will also be communicated via TiqBiz. Each term, parents/caregivers will be provided with a summary of homework completed by their child/ren.

**Guidelines:**

Reading is a key element in the Homework Program and it is expected that all children (Foundations when appropriate) will record daily reading in a designated diary.

**Junior Unit - homework should not be seen as a chore. Homework will:**

* Mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings.
* Enable the extension of class work by practising skills (e.g. spelling and number facts) or gathering extra information or materials.
* Completing tasks set by the teacher on Mathletics, Spellodrome or Reading Eggs.
* An activity grid balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities to complete throughout the year.
* This will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day.

**Middle Unit - homework should not be seen as a chore. Homework will:**

* Mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings.
* Enable the extension of class work by practising skills (e.g. spelling, times tables and number facts) or gathering extra information or materials.
* Maths Mate worksheets.
* Completing tasks set by the teacher on Mathletics, Spellodrome or Reading Eggs.
* May include extension of class work, such as projects, assignments and research.
* An activity grid balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities to complete throughout the year.
* This will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day.

**Senior Unit - homework should not be seen as a chore. Homework will:**

* Should include daily independent reading.
* Enable the extension of class work by practising skills (e.g. spelling, times tables and number facts) or gathering extra information or materials.
* Maths Mate worksheets.
* Completing tasks set by the teacher on Mathletics, Spellodrome or Reading Eggs May include extension of class work, such as projects, assignments and research.
* An activity grid balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities to complete throughout the year.
* This will generally not exceed 45 minutes a day at Years 5 & 6.

Children have access to reading material on a regular basis. It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks. Occasional project work may be given in lieu of other homework tasks. Consequences may be given for incomplete homework.

**Parents and caregivers can help their children by:**

* encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation;
* encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework;
* contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with homework;
* Helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources. Usually it is better to encourage children to complete homework themselves;
* Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities.

**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 ten minutes, increasing throughout each year level. In the early years reading can be read aloud to another, share the reading with another or listen to another read. Discussions with students about the book are most beneficial. Every book that is read is 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 (spelling):**

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

**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 should be structured so that it presents students with opportunities to reinforce learning, problem solve using learning that has taken place in class or practise number facts that are appropriate to the level of the student.

Policy reviewed and ratified by School Council on November 15th 2016