



# Homework and Home tasks

## POLICY

### Purpose

To outline to our school community the Department of Education's (DE) and Ocean Grove Primary School's policy requirements relating to home tasks.

### Scope

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring home tasks at Ocean Grove Primary School.

### RATIONALE

Ocean Grove Primary School has developed this Home Tasks 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 tasks** are tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

### POLICY

At Ocean Grove Primary School all home tasks set by teachers will be **optional** and inclusive of the following:

- purposeful
- 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.

The types of home tasks that teachers at Ocean Grove Primary School will include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- completing science investigation exercises
- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising spelling words
- practising sports skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English
- reading background material for a subject
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- revising/preparing for tests
- applying new skills to home context such as:
  - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
  - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
  - growing plants

- reviewing their favourite film or book
- writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
  - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
  - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

## Shared expectations and responsibilities

Home tasks are a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of home tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Ocean Grove Primary School** are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/carers of home tasks expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the home tasks policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Ocean Grove Primary School** are to:

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

- being aware of the school's home tasks policy
- discussing home tasks expectations with their parents/carers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of home tasks 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 tasks and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the home tasks
- discussing home tasks with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking home tasks 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 tasks.

## **SUPPORT for students and parents/carers**

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

### **Related policies and resources**

- [home tasks – Department Policy](#)

## **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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| Policy last reviewed       | November 2022  |
| Approved by                | School Council   |
| Next scheduled review date | November 2025 - recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years |

Extracted from [https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/home\\_tasks/policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/home_tasks/policy)