



# BALLARAT PRIMARY SCHOOL (Dana St)

## HOMEWORK POLICY

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff the expectations for homework and at-home learning for students of Ballarat primary School (Dana St).

### SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting homework.

### POLICY

Ballarat Primary School (Dana St) acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers at our school are expected to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise tasks such as reading, spelling and maths activities.

### GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

#### Foundation

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings.

- 15 mins reading daily.
- Reading M100W words (this may extend to spelling these words as appropriate)

#### Year 1 and 2

- 15 -20 minutes reading daily. (Reading M100W words included where appropriate)
- Spelling M100W words
- Maths games – reinforcing addition/subtraction/time etc presented throughout each term
- Mathletics and Reading Eggs optional activities (online)

#### Year 3 and 4

- 20 minutes minimum Reading daily. Answer at least one comprehension question from given prompt
- Weekly task- one of:
  - Word Study- e.g. a jumbled word sort/ sentences
  - Transfer of maths strategies being learned in class- e.g. a game which uses strategies being taught

## Year 5 and 6

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. Student diaries will be used to facilitate homework.

- Reading- 30 mins daily
- Athletics tasks weekly
- Literacy task, such as BTN review weekly
- Word study task weekly

## Shared expectations and responsibilities

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.

Ballarat Primary School (Dana St) will support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools
- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and providing them with a copy of the homework policy
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- ensuring that upper primary students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

Teachers will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children.

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing with their parents/carers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework 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.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- ensuring students keep a homework/reading diary
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

### Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Ballarat Primary School (Dana St) understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to your child's teacher.

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
  - [Homework Guidelines](#)
  - [Homework Expectations](#)

### REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in November 2021 and is scheduled for review in 2024