



Old Orchard Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Old Orchard Primary School's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

Scope

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

Rationale

Old Orchard Primary School has developed this Home Learning 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 Learning is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

Policy

At Old Orchard Primary School, home learning is set regularly and will:

- follow the homework guidelines set down by the Department of Education and Training
- be explained fully at each annual Sub-school Information evening
- provide students with the opportunity to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills (Practise)
- provide opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons (Prepare)
- encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively (Extend)



- be varied, challenging, meaningful and relevant to students' learning needs and skill levels
- give students enough time to complete any required home learning activities, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities
- be assessed regularly, and timely and practical feedback and support provided to students as appropriate
- communicate expectations clearly to parents and encourage them to become active partners in their child's learning
- be consistent across a sub-school team, but not necessarily identical
- include additional/alternative home learning tasks as documented in Individual Learning Plans (ILP's)
- not be set on weekends and holidays (including extended family holidays during term) unless requested.

The types of homework that teachers at Old Orchard Primary School will include are:

At Years Prep to 2, a maximum 30 minutes daily, home learning includes:

- regular reading aloud - to, with and by parents/carers/older siblings
- practising the reading and writing of letters and high frequency words
- practising the reading and writing of numbers, counting patterns and number facts
- tasks such as cooking, helping set up new equipment, writing shopping lists, notes or cards, playing board / card games/imaginary play

At Years 3 and 4, a maximum of 30 minutes (Year 3) and 45 minutes (Year 4) daily, home learning is set as an extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials. Home learning includes:

- independent or shared reading on a regular basis
- revising number facts and tables
- the use of a range of spelling strategies to learn from a list of personal spelling words
- activities related to the current Inquiry Learning units

At Years 5 and 6, a maximum of 45 minutes daily, home learning is set as an extension of class work, projects and assignments, and research. Home learning includes:

- regular independent reading
- revising number facts, multiplication tables and activities related to the weekly maths focus
- investigating and researching areas of specific interest.



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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Old Orchard Primary School** are to:

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

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Old Orchard Primary School** are to:

- set home learning that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure home learning 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 learning and provide timely and practical feedback
- ensure the amount of home learning 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 learning policy
- discussing home learning expectations with their parents/carers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of home learning 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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on home learning and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the home learning
- discussing home learning with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking homework 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 learning.



Support for Students and Parents / Carers

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

Related Policies and Resources

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

Review Cycle and Evaluation

This policy was last updated - August 2021

Consultation – School council was consulted in developing this policy

Approved – Duncan Cant (Principal)

August 2021

Next scheduled review date – Review scheduled for August 2024

Communication of policy – Induction processes, School website, Staff handbook