

This **Homework Policy** has been developed to document Belmay Primary School’s approach to homework and will endorsed by the School Council.

Belmay Primary School supports homework. However, this will not be compulsory and there will not be any consequences for not completing homework.

Please take the time to read this policy. If you have any queries, please see your child’s teacher.

**RATIONALE**

 Belmay Primary School is committed to providing a quality learning environment. We believe that when the school, students and parents work together, we can enhance learning opportunities for our students.

There are many different views within the educational community and beyond about the purpose of homework, its value, and the amount of homework that should be set.

The Evidence for Learning website (evidenceforlearning.org.au) lists the following key findings:

1. Homework has a positive impact on average (+5 months), particularly with students in secondary schools.

2. Some students may not have a quiet space for home learning – it is important for schools to consider how home learning can be supported.

3. Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective. In particular, studies that included feedback on homework had higher impacts on learning.

4. It is important to make the purpose of homework clear to students (e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge or to develop fluency in a particular area)

**BENEFITS OF HOMEWORK**

Belmay Primary School recognises the importance of maintaining a balanced lifestyle through a healthy body and mind. The school understands that family time is precious and often busy with after-school activities like sports, play dates, household chores and relaxation.

At Belmay Primary School, we also believe that homework can support student learning through:

• consolidating, extending and practising skills and concepts learnt at school

• developing each student’s sense of responsibility

 • fostering independent learning and time management skills

• strengthening the partnership between the student, teacher and parent

 • providing parents with an insight into what their child is learning and how they are progressing

Examples of homework might include:

• reading to children or listening to children read each day

• independent reading

 • learning sight words

• spelling and vocabulary practise

• learning times tables and practise maths skills

**GUIDELINES**

Homework will:

 • be purposeful and relevant to individual student’s learning needs

• be provided in accessible formats

• be increased gradually and consistently as children move through the lower primary (kindergarten to year 3) and into upper primary (years 4 to 6)

• not be given to students during school holiday periods, or when students are away during school time\*

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| **Year Level** | **Types of Activities** |
| **Kindy** | **Parents encouraged to read daily to their children** |
| **Year Level**  | **Types of Activities** | **Timing Guidelines**  |
| **Pre Primary** | **Reading**  | **5-10 minutes** |
| **Year 1-2** | **Reading****Spelling**  | **15-20 minutes**  |
| **Years 1-3** | **Reading****Spelling** **Maths**  | **15-20 minutes** |
| **Years 4-6**  | **Reading****Maths**  | **20-30 minutes**  |

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The role of the **Principal** is to:

• review the homework policy as required

 • ensure consistency across the school

 • ensure that the school community is informed of the homework policy and that it is regularly communicated to staff and parents

The role of the **Teacher** is to:

• ensure the class, students and parents are fully aware of homework expectations at the commencement of the year/term; including topics to be covered, types of homework and time to be spent completing homework

• set appropriate and realistic homework, taking into account the needs of individual students and family circumstances

• ensure homework can be completed by students with readily available resources

• review and assess homework promptly, and provide feedback to students to ensure mistakes and misconceptions are corrected

**Students** are encouraged to:

 • take responsibility for their homework

• complete homework to the best of their ability

 • ask for assistance or clarification as required

• return homework to teacher as set

**Parents** are encouraged to:

 • establish their own family/household expectations regarding homework (the school believes families should be empowered to make decisions aligned to their values, resources and routines)

 • provide support and encouragement - assist their child if necessary, but not complete the homework for them

 • assist by monitoring homework, signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework being set

 • communicate with the teacher about any concerns.

**NOTES**

\*Holiday homework - the WA Education Department does not see holidays during school time as a suitable reason for being absent from school. Therefore, teachers are not required to provide “holiday” homework.