



BFPS Homework Policy



Definition:

Homework is defined as work that is completed external to school. This may take the form of core foundational skills, extension work to support in class learning or completion of classwork or projects.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Banyan Fields Primary School's expectations for homework.

Scope:

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

Guidelines & Implementation:

Banyan Fields Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers at Banyan Fields Primary School are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students. This may comprise of reading, spelling, maths practise or the inclusion of tasks that support the current classroom or extension work.

Foundation to Year 4

In the early years, the objective of homework is to practise and consolidate foundational skills. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and organisation to prepare them for the upper years of primary schooling.

Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.

Homework will be targeted to student need and will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by students/parents/carer or older siblings. There may also be a spelling or maths focus included in the assigned homework tasks. Specific homework information for each year level will be communicated at the beginning of each school year and updates will be provided if required at the beginning of each term.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day. Teachers will consider workload and timelines when allocating homework.

Year 5 to Year 6

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility, organisation and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.

Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading and may include extension assignments, class work, essays and research. Although student need will be a consideration when any homework task is assigned. Specific homework information for each year level will be communicated at the beginning of each school year and updates will be provided if required at the beginning of each term.

Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework. Teachers will consider workload and timelines when allocating homework.

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.

Banyan Fields Primary School 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 at Banyan Fields Primary School 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
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in with 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 feedback given by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage obligations external to the school environment

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 upper primary students use their homework diary to record and organise their time effectively
- 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 Banyan Fields Primary School 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 classroom teacher.

Evaluation

Policy dated: October 2018

Date of next review: October 2022