

Homework is seen as one way of supporting and fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children. There are a variety of activities that complement classroom teaching and help students to be responsible for their own learning.

Burnside Primary School acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students. Teachers at BPS are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful.

Aims:

- To build on the school/home partnership
- To support, extend and apply classroom learning
- To develop the responsibility for self-learning.

Prep to Year 6

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.

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

Weekly homework will consist of daily reading and spelling, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings. Students are generally not expected to complete more than 15 minutes of homework per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

Students may also be assigned homework in the form of:

Depending on the learning occurring in the class, **teachers might choose to send home a purposeful practise activity**. Examples include:

- Assigning a mathematics task or mathematics 'games' to play- E.g. rainforest maths
- Writing - E.g. Writers' Notebook, creative writing piece
- Additional Maths Task – E.g. this week we are learning about fractions, for homework we would like you to help cook at home and discuss cutting food into halves and quarters.
- Purposeful practise task – E.g. this week we are learning about newspaper articles, please select appropriate articles from the newspaper to discuss with your child

Year 5 to Year 6

Year 5/6 Students are generally not expected to spend more than 30 minutes per day on homework and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays. The purpose and the expected outcome of homework tasks will be clearly communicated. The purpose of homework

in Year 5 and 6 is to develop good work habits, time management and organisational skills in order to prepare students for secondary education. A homework diary will be used to provide regular communication between the parents and the school.

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.

BPS 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 BPS 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
- 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 their children.

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

- 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

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 keep a homework 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 BPS 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 their teacher.

Further information and resources

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/homework/policy>

Review Cycle

This policy was last updated in August 2019 and is scheduled for review in August 2022