Lalor East Primary School

Homework Policy - September 2025

Purpose

To outline to our school community the Department's and Lalor East Primary School's policy requirements relating to homework.

Scope

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Lalor East Primary School.

Rationale

School related activities completed at home benefit students by complementing their learning, fostering good study habits and providing students with an opportunity to be responsible for their own learning. Homework should provide opportunities for students and families to share in their learning process without being onerous on either the student or their outside-of-school life.

Lalor East Primary School has developed this Homework 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

Homework is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

Policy

At Lalor East Primary School all homework set by teachers will be:

- Purposeful
- curriculum-aligned
- appropriate to students' skill level and age
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- monitored by the teacher
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

The types of homework that teachers set at Lalor East Primary School will include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- completing science investigation exercises
- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising spelling words
- practising sports skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English
- reading background material for a subject
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- revising/preparing for tests
- applying new skills to home context such as:
    - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
    - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
    - growing plants
    - reviewing their favourite film or book
    - writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
    - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
    - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

Homework for students in Foundation to Grade 4 should generally not exceed 30 minutes a day or be set on weekends or during vacations. Homework for students in Grade 5 and 6 should generally range from 30 - 45 minutes a day and will not be set over the holidays.

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 Lalor East Primary School are to:

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

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers** at Lalor East Primary School are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning (so, they are not assigned 'busy work' tasks)
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback
- ensure the amount of homework 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 homework policy
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers
- 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 and part-time employment (for older students).

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

- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discussing homework 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 homework.

Support for students and families

Lalor East 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.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- included in staff induction processes and staff training
- available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- included in staff handbook/manual
- reminders in our school newsletter
- discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- discussed at student forums and with student leadership groups (eg: JSC, Cyber etc...)
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

Policy Status and Review

This policy is a Departmental requirement.

This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the school policy review cycle, following changes to Departmental legislation and guidelines or at times that the Principal forms the opinion that the policy warrants a review.

Approval

Created date	December 2018
Updated	July 2025
Consultation	Consultation Committee, School Staff, Student Leaders, School Council
Endorsed by	Consultative Committee School Council Linda Richards, Principal
Endorsed on	9 September 2025
Next review date	August 2028