



HOMWORK POLICY

Latest DE Update: July 2021

First Developed in This Format: October 2018

Updated: March 2023



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the staff at Lethbridge Primary School.

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels, parents/carers and staff responsible for setting homework at Lethbridge Primary School.

RATIONALE

Lethbridge Primary School has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- encouraging students to build skills in self-discipline and responsibility
- encouraging students to review, revise or reinforce new skills
- encouraging students to enrich or extend their knowledge
- supporting learning partnerships with parents and carers.

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

The school acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise of reading, practice exercises or extension assignments.

At Lethbridge Primary School, all homework 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.

Homework at differing levels

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. During this time, homework is intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades. In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.

In P-2 assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials. In other year levels, assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading and may include extension assignments, class work, essays and research.

Particularly in the early years, homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or other family members.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day in P-2 and no more than 45 minutes in Years 3-6. Homework tasks will not be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

Homework will:

- mainly consist of daily reading to, with and by parents/carers or other family members.
- generally not exceed 30 minutes a day, five days per week.
- not be set for holidays or weekends but can be done on weekends if this suits the family.

Homework may:

- enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials in an enjoyable way to a maximum of two class related tasks per week.
- include spelling and maths activities on Essential Assessment
- include unfinished class work.

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 Lethbridge 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 Lethbridge Primary School** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure any homework tasks are purposeful
- 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**:

- discuss homework expectations with their parents/carers
- use feedback to improve learning
- seek assistance when difficulties arise
- organise their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

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

- ensure there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- speaking with 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 area for their child to complete homework.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Lethbridge 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 a homework task 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 and on Sentral
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2023
Consultation	Staff – March 2023 School Council – March 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2027