

## Spring Gully Primary School

# HOMework

## POLICY

### **PURPOSE:**

To outline to our school community the Department's and Spring Gully 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 Spring Gully Primary School.

### **AIMS:**

Spring Gully Primary School has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council, Student Representative Council and teaching staff 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
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

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

At Spring Gully 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.

***This policy recognises that homework design and expectations vary across the different years levels of our school.***

### *Homework in Foundation*

- Home reading is the priority for Prep students. Families are supported to establish and maintain consistent home reading routines during their child's first year of school.
- Home reading includes reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings

#### *Homework in 1/2*

- Home reading should occur each school day for approximately 15 to 20 minutes.
- 'Big Talk' as part of our VCOP/Big Write writing program assists students to prepare for an upcoming Big Write at school. A 'talk prompt' will be sent home three times per term. Families are encouraged to use this to guide a discussion with their child.

#### *Homework in 3/4*

- Students in the 3/4 Department will begin to foster a sense of self-discipline and responsibility relating to homework.
- Students will engage in home reading for approximately 20 minutes, four days per week.
- In addition to home reading, students will complete either 'talk homework' (in preparation for an upcoming Big Write) or a differentiated Mathematics or grammar activity.

#### *Homework in 5/6*

- Routines and personal skills relating to regular homework will seek to be further developed in the 5/6 Department with an emphasis on preparing students for their transition into secondary school.
- Two hours of home reading over a seven-day period is recommended for students in 5/6.
- In addition to home reading, students will complete either 'talk homework' (in preparation for an upcoming Big Write) or a differentiated Mathematics or grammar activity.

#### **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 Spring Gully 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 Spring Gully 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 'busy work' or where students 'finish off' work they did/could not complete in class)
- 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 at Spring Gully Primary School are to:***

- 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 and provide support, encouragement and reassurance when required
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

Spring Gully 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.

Teachers will make case-by-case professional judgements about adjustments to homework expectations for individual students. These adjustments will be based on their knowledge of the student and will be in consultation with the family.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

**This policy was reviewed and updated August 2021**