



Brunswick South-West
Primary School

HOMEWORK AND HOME LEARNING POLICY

At Brunswick South West Primary School, we believe that our core values - of being curious, respectful and inclusive - should follow students home and be expressed in daily family life. Children express their curiosity as they explore and learn about their world through family and extra-curricular activities. Reading - for pleasure as well as for learning and discovery – is a vital way in which students express curiosity at home. A love of reading allows us to pursue wonderment and the things that fascinate us, as we ask: “What will happen in this story?” Or, “I wonder why or how....?” At BSWPS, we aim to nurture lifelong respect for learning, alongside the respect we show for ourselves and each other. Continuing to learn after the school bell - through reading, practising skills developed in the classroom, or researching something new – is a way for a child to show respect for their own ever-growing knowledge and abilities, and for parents to show their respect for their child’s efforts and achievements. Furthermore, children’s inclusive attitudes are nurtured and practised at home, whether through sibling interactions, dinner table discussions, participation in sports, watching documentaries about other cultures, taking holidays, or participating in community activities. All life is learning and we are proud of the extended learning community that embraces everyone who is part of BSWPS.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Brunswick South West Primary School’s expectations for homework and at-home learning.

SCOPE

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

INTRODUCTION

At Brunswick South West Primary School, we understand Homework and Home Learning to include: an expectation of nightly, compulsory reading for all grade levels; other additional tasks set by the class teacher (mostly in middle and upper grade levels); home discussions and follow-ups to topics covered in class; as well as the learning that occurs less formally at home and outside school hours, through family activities, conversations and experiences.

Home Learning offers an opportunity for parents and carers to participate actively and purposefully in their child's education. Home Learning complements and reinforces classroom learning, and promotes everyday learning opportunities. Teachers will advise parents of Home Learning ideas, suggestions and expectations through their weekly Compass messages.

OBJECTIVES

HOME LEARNING AND HOMEWORK TASKS

- The objective of Home Learning is to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time.
- Home Learning fosters lifelong learning and connects families with the learning of their children.
- Home Learning is developed to create an educational dialogue about everyday links to student learning.
- Home Learning develops a positive and productive approach to learning through engaging conversations.
- Home Learning and Homework tasks give students in the upper year levels opportunities for revision and consolidation of classwork.
- Homework tasks help to build responsibility and initiative, while set deadlines help to prepare students in upper grade levels for the challenges of secondary school.
- Home Learning encourages parents to read to, and read with, their children.
- Home Learning provides opportunities to link learning areas to the culture, history and language of a child's family, and to the child's previous personal experiences.

HOME READING

Daily reading is essential to the literacy development of every child.

Our objective is for every child to read at home every day. We want all our students to develop a love of reading and approach reading as an enjoyable pastime. We want them to pick up a book for the thrill of the story, to read magazines based on topics of interest, to learn to read the newspaper to keep up with current events, and to read articles from the internet as a means of gaining new knowledge.

We ask that parents read *to* their child, and read *with* their child, on a daily basis. This requires that parents dedicate time in each day to encouraging their child to read, listening to their child read, and making it a positive, shared experience. Encouraging their child to read a variety of different material is the best educational support that a parent or carer can offer. While the school will provide reading material daily in the form of home readers at junior levels, there are many different sources of reading material available.

The reading material chosen for reading may vary and can include:

- Home readers
- Books from the school library or local library
- Magazines and comics
- The newspaper
- Information from the internet.

Daily reading for children in grades prep to 4 should be 15-30 minutes a day. This time is for parents to read with and to their child, taking the opportunity to discuss the main events, characters within the story, the setting, the problem and solution (if relevant), predicting what might happen based on what has been read, and talking about the sequence of events: beginning, middle and end.

Grades 5 and 6 students should be reading independently 30-45 minutes every day. As well as any reading material supplied from school, independent reading might include reading the sport section of the paper, reading the latest bike magazine, surfing the internet for information on basketball, and so on.

The school will provide a Reading Diary for students in grades prep to 2, to record their daily reading. We encourage students to fill this in independently by writing a comment about the story they've read, drawing a picture showing their feelings towards the book, or writing the page number they're currently on, as a way of keeping track of regular reading habits.

There will be no consequence for students if their parents have not signed the diary every day; however, it is expected that they will have been reading each day.

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

Parents and caregivers can help by:

- Encouraging their children to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation;
- Observing and acknowledging their children's success and asking how their class work is progressing;
- Encouraging children to set aside a regular daily time to read;
- Discussing what the child is reading;
- Setting an example by reading themselves;
- Contacting the relevant teacher and making an appointment to discuss any problems their child is having;
- Helping children to complete home learning tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources;
- For grades 5 and 6 students, checking their child's homework book to see if any additional home learning has been set for the week. Any work which has not been completed, will be completed in 'free time' in the classroom.
- Linking class concepts to previous experiences, everyday life and/or cultural experiences of the child.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE CLASSROOM TEACHER

Teachers are expected to support the Brunswick South West Primary Home Learning Policy by:

- Ensuring parent communications are sent to parents as required and indicate expectations around Home Learning and Homework tasks.
- Changing home readers regularly.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in May 2021 and is scheduled for review in September 2024.