

HOMWORK POLICY

Policy last reviewed	February 2026
Consultation	Staff and School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	February 2030

Help for non-English speakers



If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact blackburn.els@education.vic.gov.au 9803 4022

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Blackburn English Language 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 Blackburn English Language School.

RATIONALE

Blackburn English Language 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
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively
- 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 Blackburn English Language 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 at Blackburn English Language School could assign in the primary years are:

- reading a levelled reader aloud to a parent/carer each night
- retelling or discussing a text with a family member in English or home language
- reading books for pleasure (e.g. books from the library)
- reviewing high frequency words learned in class
- reviewing letter/sound combinations learned in class
- practising spelling words
- practising vocabulary or phrases learned in class
- practising letter formation and/or handwriting skills

The types of homework that teachers at Blackburn English Language School could assign in the secondary years are:

- reading English texts prior to class
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- revising/preparing for tests
- applying new skills to home context such as:
 - reviewing their favourite film or book
 - writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
 - reading aloud
 - discussing the content of a text
 - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

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** Blackburn English Language 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** Blackburn English Language 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.
- Follow-up with students and check completion of homework tasks

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers

- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- seeking assistance from teachers or parents 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 PARENTS/CARERS

Blackburn English Language 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:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Available on Compass, included in induction processes and staff training
- Discussed at parent information sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

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