Homework is an opportunity for you to participate in your child’s education. Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning and fosters lifelong study habits.

Victorian government schools usually advise you of homework expectations at the beginning of the year and will provide you with a copy of the school’s homework policy.

**Types of homework**

The homework set for your child will vary depending on their age, the subject and the school’s approach to homework.

The degree of difficulty and length of homework will also be set according to the age and abilities of the student.

Homework will become more challenging in secondary school and the final years of education.

Types of homework include:

**Practice exercises**

Practice exercises provide your child with opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills. They include:

- completing maths exercises
- practising spelling
- practising words or phrases learnt in a language other than English
- reading
- writing essays and other creative tasks
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising physical education skills.

**Preparatory homework**

Preparatory homework provides opportunities for your child to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons. For example:

- reading background material for history
- reading English texts for class discussion
- researching topics for class work
- collecting newspaper articles
- revising information about a current topic.
Extension assignments

Extension assignments encourage your child to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. For example:

- writing a book review
- making or designing an artwork
- completing science investigation exercises
- researching local news
- finding material on the internet
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

Parents can help

Some ways you can help your child with their homework:

- encourage a regular daily time to examine and complete homework
- discuss key questions or suggest resources to help with homework
- help to balance the amount of time spent between homework and recreational activities
- ask how homework and class work is progressing and acknowledge success
- attend school events, productions or displays your child is involved in
- talk to teachers to discuss problems with homework
- check whether homework has been set and encourage your child to keep a homework diary
- discuss homework with your child in their first language (if English is not the main language spoken at home).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Department Homework Expectations</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 4</td>
<td>• should not be seen as a chore</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• enables the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering of extra information or materials</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day or be set on weekends or during vacations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5 to 9</td>
<td>• should include daily independent reading</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• should be coordinated across subjects in secondary schools to avoid unreasonable workloads for students</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• may extend class work, projects and assignments, essays and research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• will generally range from:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. 30 to 45 minutes a day at Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. 45 to 90 minutes a day in Year 9</td>
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