



## Home Learning (Homework) Policy

*(Ratified by School Council: May 2015)*

### **PURPOSE:**

Home Learning enables students to better achieve their learning goals by:

- complementing and reinforcing classroom learning
- fostering lifelong learning and positive study habits
- providing an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning
- providing the opportunity to make connections between the family and the classroom
- allowing families to have a input into their child's learning.

### **GUIDELINES:**

- Home Learning should be appropriate to the student's skill level and age.
- Learning tasks will be purposeful, and relevant to the curriculum.
- Home Learning will include open ended tasks where appropriate.
- Home Learning is assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.
- Teachers will follow up with parents if a student regularly fails to complete Home Learning.
- Teachers will communicate with families to discuss learning strategies which will set students up for success.
- The school will work with students and their parents/guardians to establish positive Home Learning patterns from early primary school.
- All students will use Home Learning diaries to facilitate regular communication between parents and the school. Diaries will be electronic in Years 5 and 6.
- Home Learning will be guided by the school's intercultural priorities.
- The Home Learning policy is to be made available to all families.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Home Learning is based on a Whole School Approach, in a consistent format.
- Home Learning will complement classroom, curriculum and independent student learning goals.
- Home Learning includes daily reading for pleasure and purpose.
- Completion of Home Learning is the student's responsibility.
- Home Learning tasks will be distributed each Friday (excluding the last day of term), and will be due for completion on the following Friday, allowing 7 days for completion.
- Home Learning tasks will not be given during school holiday periods.
- Home Learning may include the completion of unfinished class work.
- Additional Home Learning tasks may be made available to individual students, at the teacher's discretion and in consultation with the family.
- A range of Curriculum learning areas will be reflected in Home Learning activities.
- The volume and complexity of Home Learning and the time required to complete it will increase as the child progresses into higher year levels.

## Setting students up for success with Home Learning

Families can help students with their Home Learning by:

- encouraging a regular daily session to examine and complete Home Learning
- discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with Home Learning
- helping to balance the time spent between Home Learning and recreational activities
- asking how Home Learning and class work is progressing, and acknowledging success
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- talking to teachers about Home Learning tasks and expectations
- checking if Home Learning has been set
- ensuring upper primary students keep a Home Learning diary
- reading texts set by teachers
- discussing their child's responses to set texts and asking to see their completed Home Learning
- discussing Home Learning with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking Home Learning and other learning tasks to the families' culture, history and language.

### RELATED LEGISLATION:

The following guidelines are provided by The Department of Education and Training (DET).  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx>

### *Successful practice*

This table describes successful Home Learning practice for the different year levels as set by the DET:

Years	Home Learning...
Prep to Year Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• should not be seen as a chore</li><li>• enables the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering of extra information or materials</li><li>• will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings</li><li>• will generally <b>not</b> exceed 30 minutes a day or be set on weekends or during vacations.</li></ul>
Year Five to Year Nine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• should include daily independent reading</li><li>• should be coordinated across subjects in secondary schools to avoid unreasonable workloads for students</li><li>• may extend class work, projects and assignments, essays and research</li><li>• will generally range from:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 30 to 45 minutes a day at Year 5</li><li>2. 45 to 90 minutes a day in Year 9.</li></ol></li></ul>

**RELATED POLICIES:**

Curriculum Policy  
Mathematics Policy  
English Policy

**POLICY EVALUATION:**

Evaluation will be conducted every two years by the Policy Review (Education) Sub Committee of the School Council.

**DUE DATE FOR REVIEW:**

Due for review in May 2017.