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).

Successful practice

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

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