



# Home Learning Policy

## **Rationale:**

Home learning (homework) helps students with their education by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits whilst providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. Parent cooperation is important because it reinforces the educational benefits of home learning.

## **Aims:**

- to encourage daily home reading at all levels.
- to stimulate fresh interest in, and to reinforce, support and extend the classroom program.
- to provide opportunities for parents to participate in their child's education.
- to help students develop independence, organisational and time-management skills, skills in using out-of school resources, self-discipline and personal responsibility for learning.
- home learning should be designed to enable all students to attain success, with or without parental assistance.

## **Implementation:**

- the content and quantity of home learning will consider the child's age and ability to manage with an already busy day. Home learning will be balanced to accommodate a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.
- parents and students will be advised of home learning expectations at the beginning of the school year and be provided with a copy of the Preston West Primary School home learning policy. parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish good home learning routines and an appropriate work area for home learning.
- teachers are responsible for reviewing all home learning submitted and providing feedback and support.
- failure by students to complete home learning will be followed up by the relevant teacher with parents.

## **Home learning:**

### ***Prep to Year 4:***

- 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.

### ***Years 5 & 6:***

- in Years 5 & 6, home learning is typically less than 45 minutes per day. Home learning also assists with establishing routines to promote a successful transition to the expectations of secondary schooling.
- daily reading of appropriate material such as newspapers, journals, and magazines in addition to reading for pleasure.
- the extension or completion of class work, projects or assignments as well as other tasks set in specialist curriculum areas.
- extension of class work by practising skills (such as practising times tables) or gathering extra information or materials.
- research.

## **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed by the school council and staff and ratified by the school council as part of the school's review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council: 17.06.2014

## **How to Help with Home learning**

*Parents and carers 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 any home learning concerns
- 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 work
- 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 activities to the families' culture, history and language.

*Teachers can help students with their home learning by:*

- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- helping students establish a home study routine
- giving students enough time to complete home learning, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assessing home learning and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- making effective use of home learning diaries for upper primary students
- helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensuring that students have good information skills
- ensuring parents and carers are aware of the school's home learning policy
- developing strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in home learning.

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