

HOME LEARNING POLICY

RATIONALE:

Staff at Vale Park Primary believe that home learning is one way to support progress. It should be a positive experience for students and parents. It is aimed at enhancing higher levels of student achievement by extending the time available to consolidate skills and concepts learnt at school.

Through home learning, students also have the opportunity to develop:

- Self-discipline
- Responsibility for their own learning
- Pride in their effort
- Satisfaction of learning
- Independent study skills
- Organisation and time management skills
- Striving for excellence
- Enhance family connection



Early Years students practising to read and write sight words

GUIDELINES

Vale Park Primary accepts that home learning should:

- Be a direct means of supporting the home-school partnership by providing parents with opportunities to observe student progress and encourage positive attitudes to education
- Be a purposeful learning experience and that it may contribute in a number of ways to the development and extension of the child's learning and the school program
- Be phased in gradually and consistently as students move through junior primary to primary and the middle years
- Avoid dependence on unreasonable levels of parental assistance or resources that are not readily accessible to the student
- Be set without impinging on reasonable time for family, recreational and cultural aspirations
- Be set from Monday to Thursday. *As a general rule home learning will not be set on weekends and holidays, however students are encouraged to manage their own time to complete open-ended tasks, projects, assignments etc. and may choose to work at these times*



Reading for pleasure or research

POSSIBLE HOME LEARNING FORMATS may include:

- A weekly contract which includes a variety of activities
- Home learning may be set each night
- Working on long term assignments and projects
- Sight word and reading practice

COMMUNICATION

Each teacher will have particular systems in place that will ensure clear communication is maintained between school and home (e.g. diaries, communication book, class blogs, newsletter, emails).

An outline of some of the types of home learning provided

Early Years (Reception – Yr 2) (Up to 20 minutes per day)

- Reading /sharing one or more books on a daily basis with parents/caregivers or other siblings
- Gathering information for oral talks
- Practice of the alphabet and phonics
- Practice of sight words
- Handwriting practice
- Physical activity

Primary (Years 3-5) (Up to 30 minutes per day)

- Reading on a daily basis
- Practice in Maths, Spelling and Writing
- Completing or continuing ongoing class work
- Physical activity

Middle Years (Years 6-7) (Up to 45 minutes per day)

- Reading independently on a daily basis
- Continuation of class work. i.e. Maths, Spelling
- Projects, assignments and research
- Physical activity

Parents can help by:

- Not doing the home learning for their child
- Allowing their child to accept responsibility for their own home learning
- Providing a dedicated place and time for home learning and study where possible
- Checking diaries and discussing workload/priorities
- Encouraging and supporting their child to fulfil home learning requirements
- Contacting class teachers if there are difficulties
- Discussing expectations with their child
- Providing assistance with the development of time management and organisation skills
- Providing positive, supportive encouragement



Researching and planning class assignments

Working collaboratively on a project



Students can help by:

- Accepting responsibility for the completion of home learning tasks within set time frames
- Managing workload by filling in diary/planner or home communication and setting timelines
- Advising parents/caregivers of home learning expectations
- Seeking assistance from teachers or parents when difficulties arise
- Trying to do their best work
- Organising and using time well to manage home obligations, participating in dance, music and sports commitments and family activities
- Following up on comments made by teachers

EXPECTATIONS

There is an expectation that home learning will be completed. If home learning is not completed for any reason, at the set time, it is very important to write a note to the classroom teacher to explain the reasons. Classroom teachers may provide opportunities for students to catch up with home learning.