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Approving body/individual	Whole staff
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Date of next review	December 2022



HOLY NAME PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Rationale

At Holy Name, we believe that parents are the strongest influence of their children's learning and development during the school years and beyond. This is why it is critical for parents and schools to work together in partnership to aid the growth and development of our students.

Learning at home and learning at school are connected:

- *Teachers and parents have an understanding that children 'learn everywhere' and there are important overlaps between home, school and the community.*
- *Teachers and parents have an understanding of the benefits that come from effective partnerships – for children's learning and outcomes, and for parents and teachers themselves.*
- *Schools provide opportunities, sometimes in partnership with others, for adult learning and development of new skills to support children's learning at home.*
- *Families are informed about and understand their child's progress and feel confident to work with teachers in the educational decision-making affecting their child.*
- *Schools acknowledge, value and support the home learning that children bring to school.*

(Catholic Education Melbourne, 2020)

Aims

Our Home Learning Policy aims to reflect the importance of families working together with the school to provide meaningful learning experiences that contributes to a student's development of skills and knowledge as well as dispositions of responsibility and independence. Although the topic of homework is clouded by

arguments for and against with relation to its impact on student achievement, we at Holy Name believe that the benefits outweigh the costs.

We fully understand that many children have a variety of other activities that they are involved in after hours and this impacts on the times where formal home learning tasks can be completed. The home environment and extracurricular activities offer many different learning experiences and we want to maximise these opportunities for our students. We also want to give families the flexibility to cater for all the activities and spend time learning with their children in a relaxed and comfortable way without the anxieties of homework getting in the way of quality family time.

Implementation

Home learning will look different in Years Prep to 2 and Years 3 to 6. Tasks that are sent home should reflect one of the following:

- Reinforce what has been covered at school
- Provide opportunities for family time and collaboration
- Include nightly reading with evidence recorded in student diaries
- Include a matrix of activities spanning over a fortnight giving children voice and choice (Years 3 - 6)
- Have a balance of activities that are and are not corrected
- Give the children an opportunity to reflect on their learning
- Encourage discussion and problem solving with others
- Involve research and preview learning activities
- Include basic number facts and mental math skills practice

Year Level	Suggested time limit of formalised home learning per day	Suggested screen time after school	Non-negotiables	Possible extra tasks
Prep	10-15 minutes	Less than 1 hour per day in total	In Years Prep - 2 students must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● read every night, preferably with an adult ● ask an adult to record this in the reading log 	In Years Prep - 2 students might: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● regularly practice high frequency words ● regularly practice number skills
Grade 1	15-20 minutes			
Grade 2	20 minutes			
Grade 3	30 minutes	5-17 years – Less than two hours p/day.	In Years 3-6 students must <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● read every night ● personally record evidence of nightly reading in their diary 	In Years 3 - 6 students will get a fortnightly matrix with these possible activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● targeted spelling ● practice of basic number facts ● mental maths skills practice ● maths games ● completing unfinished work ● projects to complete over time ● Mental maths computation games ● preview learning to prepare for
Grade 4	30 minutes			
Grade 5	40 minutes			
Grade 6	40 minutes			

				<p>an upcoming unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tasks that reinforce learning that they did in class, or that they didn't finish in class
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***NOTE:** Screen time (including phones, tablets, watching television, electronic media, DVD's, computers and electronic games)

Staff Expectations

We ask that all staff:

- Familiarise themselves with the school's Home Learning policy
- Communicate effectively with students and parents about their expectations, guided by this policy
- Set tasks that are achievable, flexible and relevant to the learning of their students
- Encourage the development of learning dispositions, organisational skills and responsibility
- Sight student work each fortnight and give timely feedback wherever possible

Student Expectations

We ask that all students:

- Follow the instructions set out on each class' home learning matrix, and complete tasks in a timely manner
- Communicate directly with their teacher about their needs and circumstances when situations arise
- Remember that home learning isn't a competition or a test, it is about developing learning dispositions, organisational skills and responsibility
- Work together with their families, but remember that their work must be their own

Parent Expectations

We ask that all parents:

- Familiarise themselves with the school's Home Learning policy
- Communicate directly with their child's teacher about the needs and circumstances of their individual child when situations arise
- Respectfully follow the instructions set out on each class' home learning matrix, and sign student diaries or reading logs
- Encourage their children to take responsibility for their own learning and complete tasks to the best of their own ability
- Remember that home learning isn't a competition or a test, we must continue to focus on developing learning dispositions, organisational skills and responsibility

Review

This policy will be reviewed in January 2023 in consultation with all members of the wider Holy Name Primary School community as part of an ongoing review cycle.

