



Home Learning Policy

Rationale

Home learning is the purposeful out-of-class learning that seeks to enhance the educational programs of the school. It is one method which the school employs to involve parents and students in a range of activities that are purposeful, enjoyable and provide opportunities for consolidation, extension or enrichment.

Home learning has the potential to further the school-home partnership in education and assist parents in understanding the level at which their child is working.

The staff of Holbrook Public School view the setting of Home Learning tasks as an important aspect of the school's educational program. The following guidelines should be followed when developing a classroom policy and when implementing this policy. This classroom policy or documented procedure should be included in the classroom program and discussed at the Term 1 parent/teacher class meetings. It will include information about content, organisation, expectations, completion and parents signing their child's Home learning.

Date:

This policy document was revised by parents and teachers at Holbrook Public School in December, 2014

Aims:

- To support students in the development of skills, knowledge and concepts according to their own stage of development.
- To provide activities designed to enrich, extend and/or reinforce concepts learned at school.
- To provide an opportunity for parents to become involved in their children's education, to be informed as to the curriculum content being covered at school, and to have an indication of the level at which their children are achieving.
- To establish regular patterns of home learning and develop constructive working habits in each student including the development of flexibility, time management skills and planning to suit personal needs.

Implementation:

- Children are encouraged to complete home learning. However, parents have the right to request that their child be excused from completing home learning. This is a personal decision based on what is most beneficial for the child and takes into account other commitments within the family.
- The amount of home learning will vary according to age and learning needs. Particular emphasis should be placed on English and mathematics.
- Home learning will be organised for all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 and will be reflective of work covered in class. Teachers will program together at collegial meetings.
- Home learning tasks will generally be set on Monday and returned by Friday with procedures and expectations discussed with the class.
- Home learning should comprise of two elements, daily reading and set tasks by the teacher.
- Kindergarten to Year 2 are to use the home reading scheme as a source of home reading. Years 3-6 should use other sources (School Library, mobile Library, newspapers, magazines & books from home) as a means of obtaining reading material. Teachers should emphasise the daily reading component and if possible include mention of it on home learning sheets, contracts and at Parent Teacher class meetings.
- The expected duration of home learning should be age appropriate and should take into account the individual differences of students. It should be flexible to allow for children in support programs such as English as a Second Language (E.S.L.), Learning and Support Teacher (LaST) and external specialist programs, such as speech therapy, to

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complete additional home learning tasks. In these cases the parents and the teachers involved will need to monitor home learning demands and set priorities for individual students.

- Home learning will usually be collected by teachers on Friday mornings and marked. Teachers will follow up any problems with individual children. This may vary depending on the needs of the class and the age of students.
- Teachers will keep a record of completed home learning which will be used as part of the semester 1 and semester 2 student reports. Home Learning **will not** be set as a means of discipline.
- Home learning will not be set unless it is a cooperative venture between the school and parents. Parents will be required to complete a contract and return it to the school at the beginning of the school year, indicating their willingness to support this policy.
- From time to time students will not be able to complete home learning tasks for a variety of reasons ranging from personal illness, family obligations or sporting activities outside school hours. Teachers should be sensitive to such situations. Parents need to inform the classroom teacher of any such events which may prevent the child from completing set home learning.
- The student should be able to cope with the level of home learning and complete home learning whilst still having time for recreational activities. If a parent sees that a child has worked conscientiously at a task for a reasonable amount of time but has not completed it, they should be sensitive to the child's needs. In such cases parents should sign the home learning with a brief statement of the circumstances. The teacher will accept this without a penalty.
- The only effective method of establishing and maintaining acceptable standards of home learning is through positive reinforcement and recognition of student's efforts. The school merit system should be used for this purpose and every effort should be made to acknowledge students who:
 - a) Take pride in completing and returning their home learning; and/or
 - b) Complete home learning to an acceptable or high standard.

Home Learning should also incorporate:

These provide students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge or review and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- consolidation exercises e.g. maths, including memorisation of tables
- practising for mastery e.g. spelling
- revising information about a current topic

Providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- background reading
- reading e.g. English text for class discussion
- researching topics for a class unit of work
- information and retrieval skills, e.g. using a home computer to find material on the internet.

Wherever possible home learning should recognise the place of technology in today's world and the benefits of using technology such as home computers, E-mail and the Internet for organising and accessing information. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged.

Home Learning Provided by Teachers:

No homework will be given in the first and last week of each term. The homework policy, along with weekly homework will be published on the school website.

K-2
Reading
News Plan

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Phonics/Sight words (K)
Spelling K/1/2 – as appropriate
Matrix (Activities + Home learning stars)

3-6

Project Weekly (as a grid/template)
Reading
Learn Spelling/Times Tables

Evaluation

In consultation with parents and students the Home Learning policy will be reviewed to ensure that it is being used to enhance student learning and create improved home-school partnerships.

Policy Created: 25/11/2014

Policy Review: Beginning of Term 3, 2015 (Week 1)

Adjust or modify according to student/parent/staff feedback (after Term 2 parent – teacher interviews)



Annual Home Learning Contract for Parent and Student

Home Learning is the purposeful out-of-class learning that seeks to enhance the educational programs of the school. It is one method which the school employs to involve parents and students in a range of activities that are purposeful, enjoyable and provide opportunities for consolidation, extension or enrichment. The staff of Holbrook Public School view the setting of home learning tasks as an important aspect of the school's educational program.

All students in K-6 will be set home learning each week

Home learning tasks will generally be set on Monday and returned by Friday. However, this will vary depending on the needs and age of the students.

Home learning has two elements, daily reading and set tasks by the teacher.

Responsibility for Home Learning:

The classroom teacher accepts responsibility for:

- Setting the home learning and communicating with students and parents
- Ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's home learning policy
- Providing quality home learning activities related to classwork
- Ensuring that the home learning is appropriate for the level of the student
- Ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them and how their work will be assessed
- Advising and assisting individual students with aspects of the home learning they do not understand
- Marking home learning promptly and appropriately, maintaining home learning records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers

The parent accepts responsibility for:

- Taking an active interest in home learning
- Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for home learning and study
- Ensuring that there is a set time set aside for home learning
- Supervising the work and signing it on completion
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about the home learning and their children's approach to the home learning
- Ensuring quality and presentation
- Listening to, reading to and reading with their child on a daily basis

The student accepts responsibility for:

- Bringing the work from home, completed and on time
- Being aware of the importance of home learning
- Being aware of their school's home learning policy
- Alerting parents or caregivers to home learning expectations
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- Showing their home learning to their parents or caregivers and having it signed
- Completing the work neatly and as accurately as possible
- Organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality home learning within set deadlines

The school policy on home learning expands upon these points. If you would like a copy of the policy, a hard copy is available from the school or online at the school's website.

Please discuss the home learning policy and procedures with your child and complete the form which follows.



Annual Home Learning Contract for Parent/Caregiver and Student

Student's Name: _____

Class: _____

I have read the accompanying policy and procedures regarding home learning. I have discussed the roles and responsibilities with my child.

- Please ensure that my child has weekly home learning and we agree to accept the responsibilities set out in the policy.
- Please **DO NOT** give my child home learning.

Student's signature _____

Date: _____

Parent's/Carer's signature _____

Date: _____