

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY SCHOOL

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Rationale:

The community Our Lady of the Nativity have collaborated in the development of the school's Home Learning Policy. We believe that all students from Years Prep to Year Six should be involved in relevant, purposeful and enjoyable learning activities at home that supports in school learning. We believe that Home Learning is beneficial to students in a number of ways: by complementing classroom learning, reinforcing essential skills, providing opportunities for further inquiry and fostering life-long learning and study habits. Home learning also helps to develop students as independent learners who are responsible for aspects of their own learning. Our senior students in particular believe that managing the requirements of Home Learning helps them prepare for a successful transition to secondary school.

Purpose

- Students benefit from completing Home Learning regularly. Home Learning helps them develop organizational skills and time management skills, self-discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources, and personal responsibility for learning.
- Home Learning encourages students to think, act and accept responsibility for themselves.
- Home Learning encourages the development of good study habits.
- Home Learning provides an opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their child to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.

Home Learning should:

- Be appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- Be able to be completed by the student with minimal, if any, assistance from parents
- Allow for the practise of basic facts and skills
- Include time for the essential skill of reading
- Provide interesting, challenging, and where appropriate, open ended tasks, balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities that contribute to the development life-long learning attitudes.
- Be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum and current classroom learning.
- Be assessed by teachers and/or peers with feedback and support provided.

Home Learning Format

Year Level	Expectations	Time Allocation (Ave per night)
Prep	Home reader- read aloud Letters, sound and words practise Individual Learning needs eg handwriting Counting	15 minutes
One	Home reader- read aloud Words: Reading and spelling Maths facts Individual Learning needs (handwriting)	15 minutes
Two	Reading – read aloud Spelling words Maths facts and recall	20 minutes

	Individual Learning needs (handwriting)	
	Semester 2 introduction of a home learning grid	
Three	Reading: to include reading aloud and sustained reading for pleasure. Home learning grid that offers some choice of activities English Skills – through the inquiry Revision of basic number facts	20 minutes Reading not included in this time frame minimum of 15 minutes
Four	Reading: to include reading aloud and sustained reading for pleasure. Home Learning grid that offers some choice of activities and is linked to the Unit of Inquiry. Practise and consolidation of English skills Mathematics Skills that include non-negotiable subtraction/ addition/ table facts/ division	25 minutes Reading not included in this time frame. All students should be reading for a minimum of 15 minutes
Five	Sustained period of reading for pleasure. Activities designed to develop Study Skills Home Learning Grid Learning related to personal goals (Seesaw communication) Non-negotiable subtraction/ addition/ table facts/ division	30 minutes Reading not included in this time frame. All students should be reading for a minimum of 15 minutes.
Six	Reading Study skills Home Learning Grid Learning related to personal learning goals that have been negotiated with teacher. (Seesaw communication) Non-negotiable subtraction/ addition/ table facts/ division	30 minutes Reading not included in this time frame. All students should be reading for a minimum of 15 minutes

We believe that it is essential that ALL children read each night and that from Year Prep to Year Four some of the allocated reading time will involve reading aloud to develop fluency and expression. Practise and repetition of basic mathematical facts is also essential. Homework should not be onerous for the student or their family nor should it be exceedingly time consuming. Whilst the complexity of the tasks will increase throughout a child's primary schooling, the time allocated to home learning should allow for students to develop skills through their after school activities and via hands on experiences. Sitting at a table or desk is not the only way students learn and they desire to be able to learn in a variety of styles and settings.

Implementation

Home Learning will look different across the school in relation to the age and capabilities of the students. From Year Two Home Learning will be assigned in 1 or 2 week blocks. Ideally the Home Learning tasks will be assigned for a period that includes a weekend.

A homework grid broadening the types of activities children do at home to give them life skills as well as academic skills will be used. This grid will be introduced during the second semester of year Two and continue throughout the rest of a students' primary schooling in a variety of forms. These activities can be both non-negotiable, assigned by the teacher to focus students on the development and reinforcement of specific skills or based on student choice to allow for individual interests.

Adequate time will be allocated during class to ensure the home learning tasks are fully explained to students.

Planning and time allocation for the home learning tasks will be the responsibility of each individual student, with expectations appropriate to their age. This will allow students to plan the completion of Home Learning tasks around afterschool or weekend sports and activities. We believe that this is an essential study skill, especially for our senior students. Parents are asked to inform teachers of reasons for homework not being completed. If a reasonable attempt has been made but the set homework is incomplete, parents are asked to inform teachers that a genuine commitment has been shown to the completion of set tasks.

Date of Policy Consultation

July 2018

Parent Focus Group

Student Leadership Group

Teaching Staff

Review Date

July 2020

