

# **Wandong Primary School – HOME LEARNING POLICY**

**For period: September 2018 – September 2021**

## **Rationale:**

DET identifies home learning as an opportunity for parents or carers to participate in their child's education. Home learning complements and reinforces classroom learning, fosters good lifelong study habits and provides an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. School Councils – in partnership with the principal and teachers and after consultation with parents and students – are responsible for developing and publishing a home learning policy consistent with the home learning habits guidelines.

## **Aims:**

- To support and reinforce classroom learning.
- To develop positive learning, organisational and study habits.
- To develop a responsibility for self-learning.

## **Wandong Primary School will:**

- Advise parents of home learning expectations at the beginning of the year and provide a copy of the school's home learning policy
- Follow up with parents/carers if a student regularly fails to complete home learning
- Work with parents/carers to establish effective home learning patterns from Foundation level
- Ensure grades 3-6 students use home learning diaries to provide regular communication with parents

## **Implementation:**

- Teachers will set home learning appropriate to each student's skill level and age
- Home learning activities will be interesting, challenging and where appropriate, open ended
- Each set task will be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum. Activities can include practice tasks
- The content of the home learning will vary according to the year level, the degree of independence of the student and the complexity of the other tasks
- All home learning activities will be assessed with feedback and support provided by teachers
- It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as home learning tasks
- There will be consistency within each teaching and learning unit in how home learning is set
- Home learning will provide an opportunity for parents to be involved in their child's formal learning
- Home learning will be set weekly
- Home learning will not be set on weekends or school holidays unless the classroom teacher has contacted the parents/carer to discuss the student's learning
- An appropriate amount of home learning will be assigned on the basis of students completing home learning over a five day period. However, students do have seven days to complete their tasks. (This allows students the choice to complete their home learning on the weekend if they wish)
- Students will use two home learning books which alternate weekly (grades 1-6)
- With consultation and agreement from parents, students who don't complete home learning can be asked to complete it during their lunchtime
- Classroom awards and house points will be given to students who consistently complete home learning to high standards

## **Foundation, Grade 1 and Grade 2**

Home learning will consist mainly of:

- Reading activities to, with and by parents/carers
- Simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities
- Gathering of additional information or materials
- Number Facts and Number Fluency Tasks
- Practising spelling words

Home learning will generally not exceed 15 minutes per day

## **Grade 3 and 4**

Home learning will consist mainly of:

- Reading activities to, with and by parents/carers
- Simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities
- Gathering of additional information or materials
- Number Facts and Times Tables
- Practising spelling words

Home learning will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day

## **Grade 5 and 6**

Home learning will consist mainly of:

- Independent reading on a daily basis
- Tasks such as continuation of classroom work, assignments, essays and research.
- Number Facts and Times Tables
- Spelling
- Unfinished classroom work may also be sent home during the week.

Home learning will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day

*At this level, home learning is the student's responsibility and should be spread out over the week in order to foster independence and organisational skills.*

## **Preparatory Home Learning:**

This provides opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons and may include:

- Collecting newspaper articles
- Researching topics for class work
- Reading background material
- Watching the news for current events and issues

## **Other home learning tasks:**

### **Projects**

Projects set as part of home learning need to include the following:

- An explanation of the link between work in class and the project
- An emphasis on the fact that the project is directed at students, not parents
- An explanation of how and when parents can provide assistance

### **Games**

- Board games, card games and dice games. These promote conversation, use of strategies and reinforce in a game setting, basic number facts, counting, reading and spelling skills
- Locating and writing instructions for games

### **Keeping journals/ diaries**

- Particularly related to holidays
- Personal experiences and thoughts

### **Helping around the home**

- Reading and following instructions
- Cooking- reading recipes, measuring and timing. Putting into a real situation the skills that are

- Presented at school
- Planning meals for the week
- Setting personal routines using timetables, calendars
- Writing shopping lists
- Calculating the cost of items- either at the supermarket (and other shops) and using catalogues
- Using road maps to plan journeys
- Writing lists for parties etc
- Taking the dog for a walk
- Instrumental music practise

### **CERTIFICATION**

This policy was adopted at the School Council meeting held at Wandong Primary School on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 2018.