

# Home Learning Policy



**HARRISON  
SCHOOL**

## Home Learning

Home Learning is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for the practising, extending and consolidating of learning done at school. Home Learning helps parents to feel more involved and connected to the school.

Encouragement and support from parents/caregivers helps students to have a positive and productive approach to Home Learning.

## Why is Home Learning so important?

Home Learning is seen as an extension of the learning that occurs in the classroom and therefore it should reflect the focus of the curriculum. It is aimed at promoting sound work habits and practices, developing student independence and initiative, being rewarding and promoting a love of learning, being inclusive so that it promotes maximum classroom participation, manageable for child, teacher and family.

## 'Ideal' Home Learning

The basic principles of Home Learning are that:

- it is appropriate for each student's age and ability
- it takes into account students' other commitments such as sport, part-time employment and home responsibilities
- it takes into account technology such as email and the Internet so that students without access are not disadvantaged
- Home Learning should not be an onerous task which could lead to negative attitudes. Rather, it should be such that a child can achieve success; thus gaining self-esteem and the esteem of parents
- Home Learning is set for children not adults. Parents should be interested and co-operative but their interest should be to provide support, time, space, materials and resources
- if a parent objects to Home Learning then a note should be written by the parent excluding the child from all home learning
- teachers set Home Learning however, it is through parent support that the Home Learning is done and also well presented
- While Home Learning is an important component of the teaching and learning process, we recognise that it is important for students to have time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

## What? When? How much?

Teachers will provide a matrix indicating tasks to be done daily and other tasks to be completed over the 2 week period. Times are a general guide for concentrated effort when doing Home Learning.

Preschool/Kindergarten	5-10 minutes
Year 1	10-15 minutes
Year 2	15-30 minutes
Years 3 and 4	30-40 minutes
Years 5 and 6	30-60 minutes

## Home Learning for Preschool-Year 2

### Preschool – Year 2

Generally, teachers will provide informal Home Learning in preschool. However, all activities at home or in play can assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. It should also be remembered that self-directed play in unstructured time is important. Language and number concepts can be introduced and consolidated in many family activities, including:

- shopping
- preparation of food
- listening to stories, learning songs and nursery rhymes
- conversations about what is happening at school
- interactive video and computer programs
- reading
- library borrowing
- family outings
- collecting items
- board & card games
- preparation of speeches.

In Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2, more formal Home Learning begins with nightly home reading and a fortnightly activity sheet based on the unit of work being done in class.

## Home Learning for Years 3-6

### Years 3 – 6. In addition to set activities, Home Learning may include:

- home reading (to parent, or silently)
- learning of basic spelling lists and spelling activity sheets
- learning/practising of tables, mental arithmetic
- projects as suggested by a teacher
- writing
- preparation of speeches, etc.

Most Home Learning is likely to be set across all areas of the curriculum. As students progress they increasingly work independently on their Home Learning, but it is important that parents continue to provide guidance and assistance particularly in the development of study and research skills.

### What can parents/caregivers do to help?

- Take an active interest in your child's home learning.
- Support your child in allocating time each day for home learning.
- Provide a dedicated place for home learning and study if possible.
- Assist teachers to monitor home learning by signing completed work if requested, and be aware of the amount of home learning set.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of home learning or your child's approach to home learning.
- Encourage your children to read and take an interest in current events.
- Alert the school to any circumstances or extra curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when home learning is being set.