

HOME LEARNING POLICY

PUBLISHED:	2015
IDENTIFIER:	PCP200109
APPROVED:	Mount Rogers Primary School Board - August 2015
GUIDELINES:	Parents/Carers as Partners in Schooling
LEGISLATION:	
RELATED POLICIES:	
CONTACT:	Community Partnerships and School Improvement Section

1. Definition

Home Learning is the formal and informal learning that takes place out of school hours.

2. Rationale

Home learning benefits students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning fostering lifelong learning. Home and school need to work together for effective education, focusing on learning as an enjoyable, discovery-oriented long process. Our home learning policy aims to develop curious learners and should not be a source of tension.

At Mount Rogers we believe that home learning can:

- consolidate learning by providing opportunities for students to share their in class learning with parents and carers
- support students in becoming active independent learners
- support students to take responsibility for their learning, and develop organisational and time management skills
- provide encouragement and motivation for students to become involved in 'real life' learning situations

Important points to consider:

- participation in the *home learning* program is voluntary
- students spend from 9am to 3pm in formal learning at school
- many parents find it difficult to find quality time with their children in the evening after work
- many students are involved with out of school hours activities, including those students who attend After School Care
- home situations are diverse
- some of the best learning occurs in everyday family life eg. helping in the kitchen, shopping, playing games and sharing interests with the family, talking and listening
- research indicates that student outcomes are enhanced when the family actively supports the learning process at home

3. Implementation

It is strongly recommended that parents and carers encourage their children to read to self, read to others and listen to others read each day. This is encouraged across all year levels and should be seen as a positive time to promote the enjoyment of reading and interest in books.

In the early years informal home learning is encouraged, with an emphasis on reading and sharing books. Formal home learning tasks may be set in years 5 and 6, leading up to an average of 20 minutes per day, as preparation for high school. Reading continues to be the main focus for students as they strengthen and extend their skills. At this stage reading has changed from '*learning to read*' to '*reading to learn*'.

Teachers encourage all students to pursue their individual interests and further extend their knowledge of work covered in class. Students are encouraged to share and discuss any self-initiated home learning tasks with their class teacher.

4. Communication

Class teachers will develop procedures for home learning tasks at the beginning of each year. These procedures will be communicated to parents through the term letter. These may change throughout the year as classroom programs change and new topics studied.