



## HOME LEARNING POLICY

### PURPOSE

In 2014 the Department of Educational and Training released new guidelines on the setting of Home Learning (Homework) in Victorian Government schools. The guidelines state that as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools, homework is seen as one way of supporting and fostering life-long learning and connecting families with the learning of their children.

The intent of Broadmeadows Valley Primary School (BVPS) Home Learning Policy is to foster good life-long learning and study habits through level-appropriate and different types of homework for our students.

### SCOPE

This Home Learning Policy applies to staff, parents and students who attend Broadmeadows Valley Primary School. The allocation of home learning will take into consideration the personal and developmental needs of students; and the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle that includes sufficient time for family, cultural, sport and recreation pursuits.

### POLICY

The current evidence and research show that the quality of homework (home learning) assigned is likely to be more important than the quantity. Although homework's effectiveness has been challenged by educators, parents, and students (Kohn, 2006), it continues to be an important educational supplement used by most teachers to enhance the learning experience of their students (Patall, Cooper, & Wynn, 2010). Overall, the effectiveness of homework is enhanced by providing students with choices among homework(home learning) tasks, which will result in higher motivational and performance outcomes, students' autonomy, and intrinsic motivation (Patall et al., 2010).

#### Home Learning helps students by:

- Complementing and reinforcing classroom learning
- Fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- Providing an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning
- Developing self-regulation processes such as goal setting, self-efficacy, self- reflection and time management
- Supporting partnerships with parents by connecting families with the learning of their children. The BVPS homework program is structured to facilitate the development of personalised learning programs that cater to the individual learning needs of students.

#### Guiding Principles:

- Home Learning can foster a sense of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare students for self-managing their study routines as they progress to the upper year levels
- Enables the extension of class work by practicing skills or gathering of extra information or

materials

- Home Learning will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings
- Home Learning will include daily independent reading at all year levels and should be coordinated across year levels so as to avoid unnecessary study workloads at home

BVPS staff understand that on one hand, home learning will be set by the teacher so the child can manage the task/s easily, (as in revision and reinforcement activities), and on the other hand, allow for some extension work that the child might manage independently.

## **Implementation**

Generally, teachers will communicate to students, parents and carers at the start of each term the home learning expectations.

Implementation of the Home Learning policy will include:

- Communication between teachers; between teachers and students; between children and parents/carers and between teachers, students and parents
- Relating the home learning activity to what is taught in the classroom
- Setting up an element of challenge in the home learning to be set
- Individualized home learning activities/plans, aligned with individualized learning styles and abilities
- Linking home learning activities with prompt, appropriate assessment and feedback. The BVPS home learning approach will be informed by a shared understanding and be regularly monitored through feedback from teachers, students and parents/carers.

Teachers at Broadmeadows Valley Primary School know that it is not necessary to assign large amounts of home learning; however, it is important that the home learning set provides students with opportunities to practice skills, review content and deepen understanding of concepts learned. Home learning and practice also help students to develop self-regulation processes, such as time management and study skills.

Each year level team or learning neighbourhood will be responsible for determining appropriate home learning and allocating home learning consistent with school and DET guidelines. For example, the home learning set for students in Foundation-2 may include sharing a book at home with a family member or reading each night. Within the context of learning program development and delivery the following groupings will generally apply in relation to home learning: Foundation to Year 2; Year 3 to Year 4; and Year 5 to Year 6.

### **BVPS will support students by:**

- Fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum
- Ensuring the school's Home Learning policy is relevant to the needs of students and the tasks set are achievable and can realistically be carried out at home
- Advising parents/carers of home learning expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the home learning policy
- Encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children

for enjoyment

- Ensuring that upper primary students use a home learning diary to provide a regular communication between home and the school

**Teachers will support students by:**

- Equipping students with the skills to solve problems; Explaining to students the purpose of the home learning and how it will support their learning
- Encouraging real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- Setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- Giving students enough time to complete home learning, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- Assessing home learning and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- Helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
- Ensuring parents/carers are aware of the school's home learning policy
- Developing strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in home learning
- Offering a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their child's learning

**Parents/carers can support their child by:**

- Developing a positive and productive approach to home learning
- Ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on home learning and recreational activities
- Reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- Talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the home learning
- Ensuring upper primary students keep a home learning diary
- Discussing home learning with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- Linking home learning and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community groups.

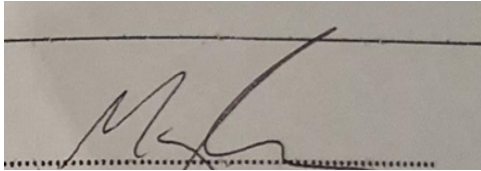
**Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:**

- Being aware of the school's home learning policy
- Discussing with their parents or caregiver's home learning expectations
- Accepting responsibility for the completion of home learning tasks within set time frames

- Following up on comments made by teachers
- Seeking assistance when the home learning is unclear or difficulties arise
- Organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

## EVALUATION AND RATIFICATION

The BVPS Home Learning Policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle or before in line with DET requirements or mandates. Amendments to this policy will be made in consultation with staff, students and the school community. Broadmeadows Valley Primary School will monitor and review the effectiveness of this policy and revise the policy at least once every three years.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>BVPS HOMEWORK POLICY</b>
<b>BVPS Council President</b>	 Signed:
<b>BVPS Principal</b>	Signed <b>C. Ziano</b>
<b>Reviewed</b>	<b>August 2021</b>
<b>Ratified</b>	<b>16/ 11 /2021</b>