



# St Georges Basin Public School

## Home Learning Policy

### **Purpose**

Home Learning (homework) is one opportunity for parents or carers to act as partners in their child's education. Home learning activities help students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, and fostering good lifelong study habits.

### **Rationale**

Home learning plays a valuable part in the learning process. Home and school need to work together for effective education, focusing on learning as an enjoyable, discovery oriented, life long process.

St Georges Basin Public School will work in partnership with students, parents/ carers to develop personal learning skills such as responsibility, positive work habits, pride and goal setting. Parents in partnership with the school should encourage children to establish good learning patterns.

St Georges Basin Public School Home Learning Policy aims to develop curious learners and should not be a source of tension.

### **Home learning can:**

- provide opportunities for students to share learning with their parents and carers
- support students in becoming independent learners
- support students in organisational and time management skills
- assist parents and carers to be aware of classroom learning programs
- provide encouragement and motivation for students to become involved in 'real life' learning situations

### **Home learning activities should be:**

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- interesting, challenging and when appropriate, open ended
- balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities

### **Important points to consider:**

- 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 e.g. 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

## Guidelines

The school believes:

- Reading at home to and with adults, and/or independently, is an essential part of each child's learning development;
- Home learning that is set out of context or causes stress on families may have a negative influence on a child's attitude towards learning and should be avoided;
- Home learning tasks or experiences that are diverse, closely related to current class work and inclusive of a range of after-school activities already being carried out by students is more likely to be beneficial; and,
- Home learning should take into account the demands of contemporary family life and parents should have the *choice of opting out of home learning* for their child if they believe it is not beneficial to the child or they feel it is having a negative impact on the child's attitude towards learning. If parents make this choice on behalf of their child, they need to inform the school in writing and there will be no negative consequence imposed by the school.

## Implementation

It is strongly recommended that parents and carers read to their children each day and encourage their children to read to them throughout the primary years. This should be a positive time to promote the enjoyment of reading and interest in books.

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

### Kindergarten – Year 2

In Kindergarten – Year 2 informal home learning is encouraged, with an emphasis on reading and sharing books each night.

In Kindergarten, students will be given books to read at home and will be asked to prepare a weekly news talk. Children will also be asked to learn their camera words (sight words).

In Years 1 and 2, in addition to home reading and preparation of news topics, some formal tasks may be provided eg. learning camera words, addition and subtraction facts and may occasionally involve short learning tasks related to current classroom topics.

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

**Students are required to:**

- Bring their 'home reader' to school every day
- Be read to or read every week night
- Practise camera words – sight words
- Have their reading recorded in their Home Reading Log

**Teachers will:**

- Ensure 'home readers' are changed daily
- Regularly assess children's reading to ensure they have books at their appropriate level
- Check Home Reading Log regularly

**Parents and caregivers can help their child by:**

- Ensuring home readers are returned to school each day
- Setting up reading routines at home
- Providing a quiet place for students to read
- Providing a suitable time for students to read
- Reading to and with their child each week night
- Discussing the text read with their child
- Signing the Home Reading Log when reading has taken place
- Make reading an enjoyable experience
- Contacting the teacher to discuss any problems their child is having with task/s

**Years 3 and 4**

In Years 3 and 4, home learning will include reading, learning/practising of tables, mental arithmetic and may occasionally involve short learning tasks related to current classroom topics.

**Students are required to:**

- Have a book to read at school every day
- Read every week night for a minimum of 10 minutes
- Record their reading in their Home Reading Log
- Have their log signed each night they read and brought to school as requested
- Complete home learning activities as set by the teacher

**Teachers will:**

- Provide opportunities for students to borrow during library sessions
- Support students to choose suitable texts
- Ensure task/s is suitable to the student's skill level
- Ensure task/s is purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- Check reading logs regularly
- Assess task/s and provide timely and practical feedback to students
- Clearly communicate to parents task/s requirements

**Parents and caregivers can help their child by:**

- Providing support to students to complete task/s requirements
- Providing a quiet place to read
- Reading to and with child on a regular basis
- Signing the reading log
- Discussing text read with their child
- Asking how task/s and class work is progressing and acknowledge effort
- Discussing child's responses and ask to see completed work
- Encouraging students to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation
- Contacting the teacher to discuss any problems their child is having with task/s

## **Years 5 and 6**

Formal home learning tasks may be set in Years 5 and 6, leading up to an average of 30 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*'.

In Years 5 and 6, home learning will include reading, learning/practising of number facts/mental arithmetic and may involve learning tasks related to current classroom topics.

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.

### **Students are required to:**

- Have a book to read at school every day
- Read for a minimum of 4 times a week for a minimum of 15 minutes
- Record their reading in the Home Reading Log
- Complete their task/s by due date

### **Teachers will:**

- Provide opportunities for students to borrow during library sessions
- Support students to choose suitable texts
- Provide tasks that are purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- Communicate to parents task/s requirements
- Assess task/s and provide timely and practical feedback to students
- Help students develop the organisational and time management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning

### **Parents and caregivers can help their child by:**

- Providing support to students to complete task/s requirements
- Checking task requirements
- Signing the reading log
- Discussing texts read with their child
- Encouraging their child to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation
- Encouraging their child to set aside regular times to read and complete tasks
- Asking how tasks and class work is progressing and acknowledge effort
- Discussing child's responses and ask to see completed work
- Contacting the teacher to discuss any problems their child is having with tasks

### **Evaluation**

Teachers will monitor the completion of tasks and indications of parental involvement. Where there is cause for concern, a parent, student and teacher conference will be organised.

Indicators of success will be:

- Greater student positivity about home learning;
- Positive parental responses; and,
- Positive impact on student attitudes towards learning.