



QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Home Learning Policy

Introduction

At Queen of Peace Parish Primary School, we acknowledge school is not the only place where learning happens. The time children spend with their families and their involvement in out of hours activities are important components of the development of the whole child. Activities such as art lessons, sports practice, cultural activities, out of school hours care, the learning of a language or musical instrument etc. are all considered to be valuable learning activities that place additional demands on family time. We believe all children should be physically active after school and this may be in a variety of ways.

This policy reflects the current Department of Education and Training Guidelines and expectations. These can be located at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/guidelines.aspx>

Definition

Home Learning involves children being engaged in learning activities outside of school hours. It provides opportunities for families to be involved in their children's education and strengthens the partnership between the school and the family. It encourages responsibility for learning to be taken by all, including children, parents and the school.

Home Learning provides an opportunity for children to develop positive dispositions that will assist them as life-long learners. Through Home Learning activities, children are able to consolidate skills and pursue areas of interest whilst informing their families of what they have been learning about at school.

Aims

- To develop the child's ownership of their learning
- To foster a sense of curiosity and creativity about learning
- To promote family / school partnerships in learning.

Implementation

At Queen of Peace we believe a child's wellbeing together with competent literacy and numeracy skills are essential for learning.

We understand that each family and their situations are different. In recognition of this and so that all children can engage with their family in home learning, our teachers support home learning activities that can be completed over a period of time.

At Queen of Peace we believe that each child is unique and therefore learning cannot be viewed in the same way for every child. This also applies to home learning and therefore a variety of tasks may be set and children along with their teachers and family can select those that are appropriate and important for that child.

Reading at home to, with and by adults is an essential part of developing literacy skills in the junior years. For children in the early stages of reading, opportunities will be provided for this to take place in the form of "Take Home Books" at reading levels appropriate for the child. For those more proficient and independent readers they will be encouraged to read books of their choice appropriate to their development and interests.

Each term our Faith Life Inquiry units provide opportunities for research and investigation, the production of work or discussions about learning to take place at home. These home learning activities may be directed by the teacher, be part of a selection of home learning activities or instigated by the child or family. The following are the units and term that they are investigated.

TERM ONE: **WELLBEING**

TERM TWO: **COMMUNITY**

TERM THREE: **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

TERM FOUR: **INNOVATION**

Suggested Home Learning Time Guidelines

Prep – Year 2 Up to 20 minutes including reading and discussion about the book, learning most used words and time to discuss or explore what they are learning in class and in the Faith Life Inquiry unit.

- Year 3 – Year 4** Up to 30 minutes including reading and discussion about the book, activities from the selection of Home Learning activities and time to discuss or explore what they are learning in class and in the Faith Life Inquiry unit
- Year 5 – Year 6** Up to 40 minutes including reading and discussion about the book, activities from the selection of Home Learning activities and time to discuss or explore what they are learning in class and in the Faith Life Inquiry unit.

Helping Students

Parents and carers can help children with their home learning tasks by:

- encouraging a regular time to examine and complete home learning tasks
- discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with home learning tasks
- asking how home learning and class work is progressing, and acknowledging success
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- talking to teachers about any home learning questions they may have
- linking home learning and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language.

It is important that as we work towards developing partnerships between home and school we communicate openly about our needs and expectations in promoting the best learning situation for the children.