



## Learning at Home Policy

*'Living and learning creatively in communities helps everyone to understand what it means to be truly human within a catholic world view.'*

Horizons of Hope

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS)

### Rationale

At St Bernadette's we believe that learning is a lifelong process that occurs in all places including the home. We recognise that learning is a partnership between schools, parents and students. We believe that successful learning occurs best when students are engaged, have their individual differences recognised and are involved in dialogue that supports their learning. We can create this success through the change from a traditional model of homework (one size fits all), to a model of Learning at Home, where the materials/tasks sent home are based around the recognition of the individual learning needs and interests of the students.

### Definition

Learning at Home is inclusive of the full range of experiences a student has outside the learning space, at home and in their community. Learning occurs in both formal and informal learning settings. This combination of experiences can engage students in their environment with the aim of creating lifelong learners.

Formal learning includes school directed tasks for home, academic work set by families, tutoring, language classes or activities related to religious school.

Informal learning can be described as experiential learning and ongoing. This can include incidental learning through daily activities (e.g. shopping, cooking, reading and telling the time), building relationships and social skills, giving children responsibilities in the home, as well as visiting places of interest (e.g. library, parks, swimming pools).

### Learning at Home can:

- help students to become confident, build self-managing skills and a sense of responsibility
- support the student's strengths
- build on relationships with the family and community
- directly involve parents in their children's learning
- foster a productive home-school partnership
- develop a positive attitude to learning as a life skill rather than just a school-based skill
- utilise materials and experiences not available at school.

## Aim

Our aim is to ensure that Learning at Home provides positive and ongoing experiences that meet individual learning needs and interests.

## Implementations

To implement our policy of Learning at Home

The school will:

- support parents in gaining a better understanding of what their child is learning at school
- assign relevant, challenging and meaningful home learning that is linked to class learning
- encourage two-way communication between families and school around student learning, through the Learning Conversations, school/class newsletters, Seesaw and other methods, such as diaries, the school website, texts and emails
- seek ongoing feedback from parents and students around the school's effectiveness in communicating student learning
- ensure students receive timely feedback about their completed learning at home tasks
- ensure clear instructions are given and students understand the purpose of each learning task.

Students are required to:

- read every school day and document this reading
- make sure they understand all the tasks and ask questions if necessary
- set aside adequate time for completing learning at home tasks and ask the teacher for more time if needed
- produce quality work that they are proud to show their parents, teachers and classmates
- share their learning at home with their parents and ask for feedback, assistance or involvement
- expect and embrace feedback on their learning.

Parents and caregivers should:

- set regular times for learning at home
- encourage and support their child in their learning
- encourage their child to learn new things and problem solve, not just get the tasks completed
- assist their child in reflecting on the learning that occurs through informal learning experiences, e.g. when shopping, discuss the mathematics associated with money
- engage in learning tasks with their child and offer assistance when applicable
- engage in dialogue with their child about school learning
- communicate with their child's teacher regularly about their child's learning

Evaluation: This policy is evaluated and reviewed as part of the Curriculum Review Statement.

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