



# Our Lady of the Way Catholic Primary School

## Home Learning Policy

### **PURPOSE**

This policy provides a framework to support students, parents and teachers with the implementation and management of home learning. There are many potential benefits of home learning in a primary school setting. This policy seeks to promote these benefits within a flexible, but consistent and clear framework. This policy aims to promote balance and curiosity in the lives of our students and to foster positive, lifelong learning and study habits.

### **RATIONALE**

This policy has been informed by:

- Analysis of current academic research
- Reflection and input from all staff members about the effectiveness of previous home learning policies at our school

### **READING**

Daily reading is an expectation of each student in each year level. This expectation will be established and reinforced by year level teams. This expectation may range from five minutes (reading and/or being read to) for Preps and up to 45 minutes of independent reading for Grade Six students.

**Daily home reading is the cornerstone and focus of our approach to home learning.**

### **MATHEMATICS**

All students will be provided with a subscription (username and password) to IXL Maths as part of the school's annual levies. This site is our recommended tool for parents to assist their children to hone and practice their skills in all dimensions of Mathematics.

### **LEARNING AT HOME**

Parents are encouraged to assist their children with learning at home. A formal, prescriptive and assessed program is not required for home learning to be beneficial. Each year, teachers provide advice to parents regarding shared home activities that will enhance student learning. This may include the following:

- Spelling
- Reading
- Mathematics related tasks

### **OCCASIONAL TASKS**

No provision in this policy shall prevent classroom teachers from setting tasks for their whole class from time to time. Such tasks might include a speaking and listening activity, an interview with a parent about a specific issue e.g. puberty or environmental awareness. Teachers will communicate task requirements and timelines to parents. Parents and children are encouraged to discuss any issues such tasks may present with the classroom teacher.

### **PERSONALISED LEARNING PLANS**

Some students in our school are provided with Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs). These plans address the learning requirements of students with special needs (including extension) and those who require learning interventions in specific areas. Most Personalised Learning Plans will contain the provision of regular, ongoing student learning at home. This will be negotiated with the student's classroom teacher and parents, with the student's parents taking responsibility for the ongoing administration of this learning at home.

## OTHER HOME LEARNING

Aside from reading, IXL Maths and occasional learning tasks already covered in this policy, no regular, formal, teacher-designed and assessed home learning program encompassing a whole grade or year level of students will be provided at Our Lady of the Way Primary School.

Year level	Homework type	Time expectations
Prep to Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings.</li><li>• May involve simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities and gathering of additional information or materials.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15 minutes per day (reading only)</li></ul>
Year 3 & 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Should include daily independent reading</li><li>• May extend class work, projects and assignments, essays and research.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will generally not exceed 30 minutes per evening (plus independent reading).</li><li>• May be set on weekends or school holidays.</li></ul>
Year 5 & 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Should include daily independent reading</li><li>• May extend class work, projects and assignments, essays and research.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will generally not exceed 45 minutes per evening (plus reading).</li><li>• May be set on weekends or school holidays.</li></ul>

## STUDENTS WITH PROLONGED ABSENCE THROUGH ILLNESS

Students suffering from prolonged absences through illness (more than five consecutive days) will be supported with additional home learning where it is in the student's best interest. This home learning will be discussed with the student's parents and will be individually targeted to address the student's specific learning needs during their absence.

## STUDENTS WITH PROLONGED ABSENCE THROUGH TRAVEL (PARENTAL CHOICE)

Parents who choose to remove their children from school to travel provide them with rich opportunities for learning about geography, time, distance, and different cultures and nationalities. Our school acknowledges the difficulties parents face when choosing to absent their children from school for long periods of time. Prior to a student's absence teachers are able to meet with parents to provide detail of areas to be covered in the term (for example, "*In Mathematics we will be focusing on multiplication, division and fractions this term*"). Parents will then take responsibility for providing work for their children during their travels. It should not be expected that teachers prepare workbooks for students who are absent for prolonged periods due to parental travel arrangements.

## PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

The home learning program at Our Lady of the Way Primary School requires the participation and support of students, parents and teachers. The following principles and practices outline the roles and responsibilities of all parties.

### Students are expected to:

- Read every weeknight at home as outlined by their classroom teacher
- Use the IXL Maths website to practise skills in Mathematics
- Complete any occasional home learning tasks within given timeframes
- Discuss any problems with home learning tasks with the relevant teacher

**Parents are expected to:**

- Support their children to read at home every night, as outlined by the class teacher
- Support their children to use the IXL Maths website and discuss any concerns about the level/difficulty with the class teacher
- Assist children to complete any occasional tasks set by the class teacher
- Provide an appropriate home learning environment to carry out assigned task (e.g. quiet space without distraction)
- Support the implementation of a Personalised Learning Plan (where appropriate)
- Display an interest in their children's schooling and the progress they are making
- Contact the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with any learning tasks
- Contact the relevant teacher if choosing to opt out

**Teachers are expected to:**

- Establish and maintain high expectations for home reading within their class at their year level and provide direction by recommending suitable texts for students
- Support the administration of the IXL Maths website by allocating students to the appropriate level of difficulty and responding to parent concerns in this area
- Set varied, challenging and meaningful learning goals that may include work at home for students requiring a Personalised Learning Plan
- Set varied, challenging and meaningful occasional tasks (e.g. prepare a talk about the book you have been reading) for the whole class
- Develop relevant assignments with clear expectations for students
- Outline expectations of how the home learning is going to be used in class, reflected upon and/or assessed
- Discuss concerns about home learning with students and, when necessary, with parents
- Contact parents if their children are experiencing learning difficulties in order to discuss the need for and plan additional work to be completed at home

**ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION** Evaluation of the Home Learning Policy will be undertaken as part of our policy review process.

**REVIEW:** 2023