

Home Learning Policy and Guidelines

Background

Neville Bonner Primary School provides a welcoming, safe and nurturing environment which supports children to excel as learners. Our school opened in 2013 to serve the community of Bonner and Forde in the fast growing North Canberra region of Gungahlin. Our school is a primary school catering for children from Preschool to Year 6.

Respectful Relationships is fundamental to our school philosophy and developing our school community as our region develops over time. In partnership with parents and carers we strive to build our school as a community of learners who treat each other with respect and regard.

This home learning policy has been developed in response to parent and carer requests.

Purpose

To guide our community on the learning journey the school developed a four year strategic plan. The Home Learning Policy has been developed to work towards strategic priorities 1 and 3 and to establish and foster productive partnerships.

The Home Learning Policy articulates and communicates the expectations about home learning at the Neville Bonner Primary School.

Home Learning

Home learning can play a valuable part in our children's development. Our Home Learning Policy aims to develop confident and curious learners without creating a source of tension. Home learning can:

- provide opportunities for children to share learning with their parents and carers
- build collaborative learning partnerships between parent, child and teacher
- reinforce learnings from the classroom building confidence in our children
- provide opportunities to become involved in real life learning situations
- assist parents and carers to be aware of classroom learning programs
- support children in becoming independent learners, and
- develop time management and organisational skills.

We also believe that children have varying requirements at different stages in their schooling. Therefore home learning content and expectations should change according to a child's year level.

Principles and Responsibilities

Participation in the home learning program is encouraged, but optional. Teachers will provide feedback on completed tasks, however, home learning will not be reported on in the end of semester student reports.

Important points to consider:

- children spend from 9am to 3pm in formal learning at school
- many children are involved with out of school hours activities, including After School Care, sports and arts activities
- 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
- research indicates that child outcomes are enhanced when the family actively supports the learning process at home
- participation in the *Home Learning* program is encouraged, but optional.

Teachers will:

- provide home learning tasks relevant to class work
- clearly communicate expectations and timeframes to children and parents
- encourage children to complete tasks
- provide an opportunity for children who want to do home learning at school
- acknowledge and celebrate the completion of homework at an individual level, and
- provide feedback to children about their work setting aside time to develop strategies with the child's parents regarding any difficulties.

Children will:

- talk to a teacher, parent/carer or older sibling if they have questions
- do quality work and try their best.

Parents and Carers are encouraged to help their children with home learning by:

- encouraging their child/ren to complete tasks
- providing a quiet and comfortable environment to work
- providing regular times when the child can complete tasks
- talking to their child and supporting them when necessary, and
- contacting the teacher if their child is having difficulty completing home learning tasks.

The School will:

- ensure that information sessions at the beginning of each year include a home learning session
- provide staff and parents with a copy of the home learning policy
- aspire to provide an online learning environment to support the implementation of the policy
- regularly review the policy to reflect best practice and community views.

We acknowledge that children and families have varying responsibilities and priorities outside of school. We also recognise that children may have a range of interests and needs. We therefore encourage open discussion between teachers, parents/carers and children regarding home learning tasks.

Guidelines

No set amount of home learning is prescribed by the Policy and the times set out below are only a guide. The amount appropriate is to be determined at the discretion of the year level teaching teams and the School Principal. The amount set each week may vary from time to time as circumstances dictate.

Preschool

- Every child should be read to by an adult or older sibling for approximately 10 minutes daily.
- Additional tasks linked to units of inquiry may be set at times. For example, children may be asked to bring in an object from home that relates to a unit of inquiry or to share as part of the Preschool speaking programme.

Kindergarten to Year 2

- Every child should read for approximately 10 minutes daily so they can talk about the book. This may include reading to an adult, reading with an adult or being read to by an adult.
- Additional tasks linked to units of inquiry may be set at times. For example, children may be asked to bring in an object from home that relates to a unit of inquiry or to interview a parent/carer about a given topic.

Years 3 and 4

- Every child should read for at least 10 minutes daily so they can talk about the book.
- 15 minutes of literacy related activities per week.
- 15 minutes of numeracy related activities per week.
- Additional open-ended tasks linked to units of inquiry may be set at times.

Years 5 and 6

- Every child should read for at least 20 minutes daily so they can talk about the book.
- 20 minutes of literacy related activities per week.
- 20 minutes of numeracy related activities per week.
- Additional open-ended tasks linked to units of inquiry may be set at times.

Glossary

Home Learning - Any task assigned by teachers intended for children to complete during non-school hours, which is designed to complement their school learning. Neville Bonner Primary School has adopted the term “Home Learning” to replace the term “Homework” as home learning can encompass a much broader range of activities than traditional homework.

Unit of Inquiry - A planned unit of work that may include teaching and learning across the Science, Geography, History, Civics, Citizenship, Technology and the Arts.

Feedback and Review

If you have any feedback or comments about the Home Learning Policy please contact the school on (02) 6142 1201 or by email at nevillebonnerps@ed.act.edu.au.

The Policy will be reviewed every two years by the School Board. The first review will begin at the end of the 2017 school year.