

RATIONALE

At Barton Primary School our core business is student learning and during school hours we provide students with the opportunity for 100% focus on their learning needs. Upon leaving school at the end of the day we recognise that students may be tired, have extra curricular programs to attend and may participate in a wide variety of learning tasks through their home environment.

We do not believe in the traditional method of homework. This traditional method may include students independently completing tasks without parent involvement or a set time allocated working at a table/desk.

We believe that student learning at home is a community effort and when students are taking part in homework tasks, that it is a hands-on learning opportunity for each student and their families.

Professor John Hattie (researcher in Education) states that 'homework in primary school has an effect size of zero' and five to ten minutes of homework has the same effect as one or two hours. He believes the best thing you can do for homework is reinforce something you have already learnt. Professor Hattie also states that schools should be improving the way they do homework.

<https://visible-learning.org/2014/09/john-hattie-interview-bbc-radio-4/>

Therefore, at Barton Primary School we believe that normal daily routine activities completed by students at home, with members of their family and parent direction, is recognised as homework tasks. These include participating in:

- supervised cooking activities
- attempting maintenance type tasks with an adult
- conversations regarding news items and TV programs with family members
- playing board games
- analysing and discussing reading material or movies
- being involved in Maths based real-life tasks eg) sorting, creating patterns, counting items, solving real-life math problems eg calculating totals of shopping lists

At times, students may also complete various activities at home to support the learning occurring in the classroom as guided by the teacher.

AIM

- To develop a love of learning that continues outside of school hours
- To demonstrate that learning can occur through a variety of tasks
- To ensure Barton Primary School students access a wide variety of learning opportunities
- To have a purpose for all homework tasks that directly relates to curriculum outcomes and provides opportunity for effective and timely feedback by teachers

IMPLEMENTATION

- The school's Homework Policy will be distributed to parents at the commencement of each school year and is also available on the school's website
- Teachers will recognise home based and parent supervised activities as homework
- Students from years Prep to 6 will not be set traditional homework tasks, as per the rationale
- Students may be requested to complete nightly reading with an adult
- Teacher Professional Learning Teams may assign homework tasks at different year levels, which will support the learning in the classroom. Teachers will provide adequate information as to the requirements of the task and a timeline for students to follow
- Any homework task that is assigned should have a clear purpose and relate directly to the curriculum content that has been, or is currently, being taught. Teachers should also provide effective and timely feedback to students that will assist in improving their learning and learning goals

REFERENCES

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

<https://visible-learning.org/2014/09/john-hattie-interview-bbc-radio-4/>

<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/homework-vs-no-homework-wrong-question-maurice-elias>

APPROVED

Ratified by school council 15th March 2017



EVALUATION

- This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Barton
PRIMARY SCHOOL