



PROCEDURE 1.1.1

HOME LEARNING PROCEDURE

Introduction:

As a learning community, we want each student to be equipped with the knowledge, skills attitudes, values and sense of identity they need to give them the best opportunities in life. Meeting this goal requires teaching, coaching, engagement, and opportunities for consolidation of important learning.

Home Learning plays an important part in consolidating, supporting and reinforcing many of the skills taught at school which are required to become increasingly literate and numerate. It usually involves the practice of already/nearly acquired skills and demands and encourages a high level of independence.

Home Learning can be very rewarding. It can also be a source of frustration and concern for teachers and parents, creating tension in the household or in the first few minutes of a new day at school. On these occasions, home learning can be detrimental to attitudes to learning, skill development and relationships at home or school. In an effort to make home learning purposeful and positive, we have set the following guidelines:

At Tokomaru School we consider the following activities as ones that **all children should complete**:

- Home reading, as set in class, using resources from school and supplemented by resources available in the household or from a local library. This will include keeping a reading log or diary of reading completed at home each week day. It is expected that children will take increasing responsibility for their own reading as they get older.
- Learning of basic facts, as appropriate (e.g. Kick It and IXL)
- Learning and testing of spelling or Early Words, as applicable

In addition, the following activities may, **from time to time be set**:

- Collect a news item, or discuss topical issues with parents, grandparents or similar.
- Practise a skill.
- Collect materials and/or construct a model.
- Prepare for a competition e.g. cultural or sports activity, Mathex, Speech competition, etc...
- Gathering information/collecting data

Time spent on home learning will vary according to age, teacher's programme, and the teacher's discretion. As will the level of parental support/involvement. Tasks such as reading can be a very rewarding and enjoyable time for families taking up as much time as the child's interest holds. However there are some tasks that require greater attention and sometimes, your support.

As a general rule we think that students in their first six years of school should spend no longer than ten minutes each evening on directed homework, outside of reading. For students in their final two years at school (year 7/8) time spent on Home Learning will vary as they prepare for High School. At this level, they may also choose to bring home class work to complete.

Sometimes teachers are approached by parents to provide additional home learning over and above the guidelines. Rather than extending a child's school day further, we advise parents to pursue other activities (e.g. learning a musical instrument, playing a sport, attending a library, or joining a club).

Teachers may **sign off** of spelling learning, reading logs or similar. However, parents and students are expected to monitor home learning to get the full benefit of these activities. If parents have concerns or questions in regard to Home Learning, they should see their child's teacher.