



# ***Golden Bay Primary School***

## Homework Policy and Guidelines

Effective: January 2015

# HOMEWORK POLICY - GOLDEN BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## 1 POLICY STATEMENT

Homework may take a variety of forms. The important factor is that any homework must provide educative experiences. Homework should centre around the interests of the child which may be natural or acquired and add to their interest in learning.

## 2 POLICY RULES

The conception of 'homework' should serve to build up intelligent interest and attitudes that will last throughout life and encourage a love of learning.

In taking into consideration the interests of the child, homework can range from arithmetical puzzles for the child who enjoys working in this area, to another finding satisfaction in writing real letters to friends, or yet others who are naturally interested in the media or collecting things – at first indiscriminately and later for rarity, identification, classifications or exhibition purpose.

Parents may discuss with the teacher the opportunity or necessity for their child to opt out of any home activities in the short term or longer duration.

## 3 RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

All employees are responsible for the implementation of this policy with the understanding that home conditions and out of school activities vary widely as does the natural capacity of students and parent availability to support their child.

## 4 SCOPE

This policy applies to all year levels at Golden Bay Primary School.

## 5 SUPPORTING PROCEDURES

Children should be encouraged to read or be read to each day for interest and enjoyment. Books can be borrowed from the school library.

Teachers should be sympathetic to the strong desire of many children to bring things to school and provide orderly, well thought through and discreetly regulated opportunities for children. This not only will reinforce the school-home association, but may result in interesting class discussions, displays, and strong student engagement with school and voluntary organisations (E.g. – sporting associations).

The interests of the children outside of school should be viewed as important and links made to reinforce the home-school association with displays and parent involvement where possible.

## 6 DEFINITIONS

**Educative experiences** - Voluntary tasks undertaken by the child to make use of their acquired skills in a way appropriate to their age and interests. Targeted activities may form part of this experience as part of an individual Support Plan.

**Compulsory homework** – Precise tasks given to all members of a class to be performed out of school hours and marked by the classroom teacher. (*Not supported by this policy*).

## 7 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Australian academics Richard Walker and Mike Horsley's new book *Reforming Homework* says homework for young primary school children is of little or no value when it comes to academic achievement.

- *Reforming Homework* by Professor Richard Walker and Mike Horsley

*New research has found that homework is of little value to primary school children, and students are regularly given too much.*

- Bennett, Sara, and Nancy Kalish. [The Case Against Homework: How Homework Is Hurting Our Children and What We Can Do About It](#) (New York: Crown, 2006).

- Buell, John. *Closing the Book on Homework: Enhancing Public Education and Freeing Family Time*. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004).

- Dudley-Marling, Curt. ["How School Troubles Come Home: The Impact of Homework on Families of Struggling Learners."](#) *Current Issues in Education* [On-line] 6, 4 (2003).

- Hinchey, Patricia. "Rethinking Homework." *MASCD* [Missouri Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development] *Fall Journal*, December 1995: 13-17.

- Kohn, Alfie. [\\_The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing](#) (Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press, 2006).

- Kralovec, Etta, and John Buell. *The End of Homework: How Homework Disrupts Families, Overburdens Children, and Limits Learning* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2000).

- Samway, Katharine. "And You Run and You Run to Catch Up with the Sun, But It's Sinking." *Language Arts* 63 (1986): 352-57.

- Vatterott, Cathy. ["There's Something Wrong With Homework."](#) *Principal*, January-February 2003: 64.

- Waldman, Ayelet. ["Homework Hell."](#) Salon.com. October 22, 2005

## 8 GUIDELINES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Activities covered in this policy involves the use of school time. Time allocated for home-school activities is considered to be of value, most interesting and profitable to students and the school week if managed well by the classroom teacher.

Home-school links also serve as a constant stimulus to interest the parents in the development of their children's interests and build positive attitudes towards developing interests that may provide life long satisfaction, friendships and strengthen citizenship within associations.