



## **LEARNING @ HOME POLICY**

*Learning @ Home provides students with opportunities to*

- *consolidate their learning studio work,*
- *pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the learning studio*
- *involve family members in their learning.*

*Learning @ Home takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.*

### **RATIONALE**

Mother Teresa Primary places a great focus and energy on literacy and in particular the development of highly effective readers. We desire that our students develop a passion for reading.

**We see reading as a foundational skill to powerful learning.**

Why an emphasis on reading? What are the benefits of reading?

Research tells us that reading and being read to has the potential to:

- improve comprehension, students who read extensively learn reading strategies and increase their reading rates.
- allow students to make gains in overall language proficiency.
- increase vocabulary knowledge.
- improve writing skills
- improve understanding of mathematical concepts and problem-solving

There are three types of *Learning @ Home* reading

1. **Practice** reading which helps students to remember and practise newly acquired skills - such as learning sight words, home readers and choosing library books to read for pleasure.
2. **Preparatory** reading requires students to source and read background information to prepare them for future learning - such as reading an article on the Gold Rush in preparation for a lesson in Australian history.
3. **Extension** reading encourages students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. For example this reading would include researching local news or retrieving information from the Internet.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **READING FOR KINDERGARTEN – YEAR 2**

Reading in K-2 will involve the learning of sight words and reading a variety of home readers and library books. In these foundational years children become better readers by practising reading. *Learning @ Home* reading will approximately be between 10 -20 minutes per night.

#### **READING FOR YEARS 3 - 6**

Reading in Years 3-6 will be varied and students will be expected to work more independently. However, teachers will still provide guidance and assistance to students in choosing suitable reading material. Reading will be focussed across all areas of the curriculum. *Learning @ Home* reading will approximately be between 20 -30 minutes per night

## **WHAT CAN PARENTS/CAREGIVERS DO TO HELP?**

- Take an active interest in your child's reading.
- Be a good role model and read with and to your child.
- Support your child in setting aside time each day.
- Provide a dedicated place and routine for reading if possible.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about your child's approach and motivation to reading.
- Alert the school to any domestic circumstances or extra curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration.