



HOME LEARNING POLICY

Purpose

This policy provides a framework to support students, families and teachers with the implementation and management of home learning. This policy aims to promote balance and curiosity in the lives of our students and to foster positive lifelong learning habits.

Rationale

This policy has been informed by:

- Analysis of current research;
- The Finnish approach to home learning; and
- Reflection and input from all staff members regarding policy effectiveness and student needs.

Reading

Daily reading is the cornerstone of our approach to home learning.

All PVS students are expected to read daily. This could include reading alone, being read to, or reading together with someone. Reading is the most important skill students can learn and allows them to develop their vocabulary, spelling, sentence formation, communication skills, higher order thinking, and memory improvement amongst other benefits. Our aim is to enable students to develop a love for reading and in turn, for learning. The time spent reading will vary depending on age and year level. The way in which classroom teachers ask to be informed about home reading will also vary.

Learning at Home

Parents are encouraged to assist their children with learning at home. A formal, prescriptive and assessed program is not required for home learning to be beneficial. Teachers will provide advice to parents regarding shared home activities that will enhance their child's learning.

This may include the following:

- Passion projects
- Spelling
- Tasks to develop lifelong hobbies

- Outdoor experiences
- Research based tasks
- Athletics
- Research
- Construction
- Occasional tasks

Occasional Tasks

No provision in this policy shall prevent classroom teachers from setting tasks for their whole class from time to time.

Students with Prolonged Absence due to Medical Reasons

Students suffering from prolonged absences through illness (more than five consecutive days) will be supported with additional home learning where it is in the student's best interest. This home learning will be discussed with the student's parents and will be individually targeted to address the student's specific learning needs during their absence.

Students with Prolonged Absence through Travel (Parental Choice)

We acknowledge there are families who choose to remove their children from school to travel to provide them with rich opportunities for learning about geography, different cultures, and nationalities. Our school acknowledges the difficulties parents face when choosing to absent their children from school for long periods of time. Prior to a student's absence parents are encouraged to make a time meet with the class teacher to understand areas their child will miss. Parents will then take responsibility for providing work for their children during their travels. Parents should not expect that teachers prepare workbooks for students who are absent for prolonged periods due to parental travel arrangements.

Advice for Families

- It is imperative children play and relax after school.
- It is imperative children be provided with outdoor time after school and on weekends.
- Children need guidance in balancing screen and green time.
- Restrict digital gaming to short lengths of time and not on a daily basis.
- Support children to read or be read to nightly.
- Encourage your children to participate in daily routine activities such as cooking, gardening and general chores.

References

https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/does-homework-perpetuate-inequities-in-education_5jxrhqhtx2xt-en#page2

https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/does-homework-perpetuate-inequities-in-education_5jxrhqhtx2xt-en#page1

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

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