



## HOME LEARNING POLICY

Our goal at Larrakeyah Primary School is to create 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners through the engagement of critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity across all learning areas. We aim to make this inclusive of learning outside of school, in the form of Home Learning (otherwise referred to as 'homework').

As a leading Visible Learning school, Larrakeyah Primary School acknowledges the work of John Hattie and his research based on ranking educational influences related to learning outcomes from very positive effects to very negative effects. From this research, Hattie identified that anything below 0.4 does not have a significant effect in developing student's learning. Updated in 2018, the effect size of homework is 0.29. As such, Larrakeyah Primary School evaluated the need for providing 'traditional' forms of homework and adapted their policy to include activities that would have a positive impact on achievement and student wellbeing.

The areas our Home Learning focuses on are:

1. Home Reading (levelled to match PM or Lexile levels)
2. Activities that promote automaticity in **literacy** skill and development
  - Sight words
  - Spelling words
3. Activities that promote automaticity in **numeracy** skill and development
  - Number fluency
  - Mental strategies

In addition, our aim is for Home Learning to also represent the environment outside of school, where students are able to follow their interests and passions to experience the deeper learning that comes from this, as we do within the school through the process of **inquiry**.

## HOME LEARNING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

The following tasks are an overview of Home Learning activities undertaken daily in Early Childhood. More specific detail is located following the table of information.

	Completed Daily	Optional
Transition	PM Home Reader Magic 300 Words	Reading Eggs online Mathseeds online Soundwaves online Additional activities
Year 1	PM Home Reader Magic 300 Words* Soundwaves spelling words	Reading Eggs online Mathseeds online Soundwaves online Additional activities
Year 2	PM Home Reader Magic 300 Words* Soundwaves spelling words	Reading Eggs online Mathletics online Soundwaves online Additional activities

(\*as applicable to individual students)

### Home Reading

Students should be undertaking formal and informal reading at home each day to assist in literacy development. For formal reading, all Early Childhood students are assessed with an appropriate reading level aligned to the PM Benchmark program. The student's home reading folder will include the correct levelled book for them to read with support from an adult at home. These readers should be signed and returned daily. PM reading should occur in conjunction with reading for enjoyment informally with a range of free choice texts, either independently or with another person who can assist in a shared reading experience. All students will receive a Reading Eggs online reading program login which they are free to use at home. Teachers may allocate specific tasks on Reading Eggs for children to complete at home at the family's discretion.

### Sight Words

To assist students in literacy development, practising sight words daily is also integral to the learning beyond the classroom. Sight words build speed and fluency when reading which leads to an increase in comprehension of all texts. All Early Childhood students are assessed with a sight word level aligned to the Magic 300 Words program. Children are provided with their current sight words lists in their Home Learning folders and these should be revised with the support of an adult at home

each day. It is also important that children revisit past sight word lists to ensure they are maintaining long term exposure to the words.

### **Soundwaves Spelling Words**

From Transition, students across the school are engaged with the Soundwaves Spelling program in regular literacy learning. Commencing in Year 1, students will be required to complete a short list of levelled spelling words to practise at home each day. Each list of words are aligned to the Soundwaves unit sound of the week explored in class. We advocate the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' methodology for students to complete their words at home. All students will receive a Soundwaves online spelling program class code to extend the learning independently at home, at the family's discretion.

### **Number Fluency & Mental Strategies**

Students should be engaged in informal number tasks at home, integrated in to daily life, such as number identification, counting forwards and backwards, adding and subtracting, and so on. In addition, students in Transition and Year 1 will be provided with a Mathseeds online program login, which is linked to the Reading Eggs program, using the same login details. Students in Year 2 will receive a Mathletics online numeracy program login. Teachers may allocate specific tasks on Mathseeds (Transition – Year 2) or Mathletics (Year 1 and 2) for children to complete at home at the family's discretion.

### **Additional Activities**

In Early Childhood, additional tasks may be allocated at the discretion of the teacher to consolidate learning undertaken in class and continue to journey of inquiry, such as the simple preparation of Show and Teach presentations, to be shared once or twice per term.

## HOME LEARNING IN MIDDLE & UPPER PRIMARY

The following tasks are an overview of Home Learning activities undertaken daily in Middle and Upper Primary. More specific detail is located following the table of information.

	Completed Daily	Optional
<b>Year 3</b>	PM Home Reader/Lexile book* Soundwaves spelling words Number fluency	Reading Eggs or LiteracyPro online* Mathletics online Soundwaves online Additional activities
<b>Year 4</b>	PM Home Reader/Lexile book* Soundwaves spelling words Number fluency	Reading Eggs or LiteracyPro online* Mathletics online Soundwaves online Additional activities
<b>Year 5</b>	PM Home Reader/Lexile book* Soundwaves spelling words Number fluency	LiteracyPro online* Mathletics online Soundwaves online Additional activities
<b>Year 6</b>	PM Home Reader/Lexile book* Soundwaves spelling words Number fluency	LiteracyPro online* Mathletics online Soundwaves online Additional activities

### Home Reading

Students should be undertaking formal and informal reading at home each day to assist in literacy development. For formal reading, all students are assessed with an appropriate reading level aligned to the PM Benchmark program. Once they have completed the PM program they will progress to LiteracyPro (Lexile). For students on PM, the student's home reading folder will include the correct levelled book for them to read with support from an adult at home. These readers should be signed and returned daily. For students on LiteracyPro, they are required to borrow a library book aligned to their Lexile level and take home to read daily. Upon completion of Lexile texts, these students can access LiteracyPro online from home to complete a quiz associated with their novel. All students in Years 3 and 4 will also receive a Reading Eggs online reading program login. Teachers may allocate specific tasks on Reading Eggs for children to complete at home at the family's discretion. All PM and Lexile reading should occur in conjunction with reading for enjoyment informally with a range of free choice texts, either independently or with another person who can assist in a shared reading experience.

### **Soundwaves Spelling Words**

All students across the school are engaged with the Soundwaves Spelling program in regular literacy learning. Students will be required to complete a short list of levelled spelling words to practise at home each day. Each list of words are aligned to the Soundwaves unit sound of the week explored in class. We advocate the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' methodology for students to complete their words at home. All students will receive a Soundwaves online spelling program class code to extend the learning independently at home, at the family's discretion.

### **Number Fluency & Mental Strategies**

Students should be engaged in informal number tasks at home, integrated in to daily life, such as timetables and mental strategies involving the four operations. All students will receive a Mathletics online numeracy program login. Teachers may allocate specific tasks on Mathletics for children to complete at home at the family's discretion.

### **Additional Activities**

In Middle and Upper Primary, additional tasks may be allocated at the discretion of the teacher to consolidate learning undertaken in class and continue the journey of inquiry. These may include, but are not limited to, Genius Hour and/or Passion Project research and preparation, or project-based learning task completion (Novel Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences, etc.).

## **DIGITAL HOME LEARNING**

Larrakeyah Primary School is a Seesaw school, and as such, have the capability to deliver aspects of our Home Learning program through digital means via this online platform. This is done so at the individual classroom teacher's discretion and will be communicated clearly to families at the commencement of the school year. This is an opt-in for families and designed to create flexibility for all stakeholders to connect beyond the classroom and in to the home. For families that do not elect to complete these certain tasks digitally, hardcopy resources will be provided.

## **STUDENTS WITH PROLONGED ABSENCE THROUGH ILLNESS**

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 (FAMILY CHOICE)**

Larrakeyah Primary School acknowledges the difficulties parents face when choosing to remove their children from school for long periods of time for particular circumstances, however, schooling is still compulsory. Prior to a student's absence teachers are able to provide detail of areas to be covered in the term (for example, "In Mathematics we will be focusing on multiplication, division and fractions this term"). Parents will then take responsibility for providing work for their children during their travels. It should not be expected that teachers prepare workbooks for students who are absent for prolonged periods due to parental travel arrangements.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS**

The Home Learning program at Larrakeyah Primary School requires the participation and support of teachers, families and students. The following principles and practices outline the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders:

### **Students are expected to:**

- Read every weeknight at home
- Complete Magic 300 Words every weeknight (as applicable)
- Complete Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check for all Soundwaves spelling words every weeknight
- Complete informal number fluency tasks in daily routines
- Complete any additional Home Learning activities within given timeframes
- Discuss any problems with Home Learning tasks with their teacher

### **Parents are expected to:**

- Support their children to read at home every night, as outlined by the class teacher
- Support their children to complete spelling words every night, as outlined by the class teacher
- Support their children to use the additional websites such as Seesaw, Reading Eggs, LiteracyPro, Mathseeds, Mathletics, etc.
- Discuss any concerns about the levels/difficulties of Home Learning tasks with the teacher
- Assist children to complete any additional Home Learning tasks set by the class teacher
- Provide an appropriate Home Learning environment to carry out assigned task (e.g. quiet space without distraction)
- Display an interest in their children's schooling and the progress they are making
- Contact the relevant teacher if choosing to opt in or out of Digital Home Learning

**Teachers are expected to:**

- Establish and maintain high expectations for Home Learning within their class at their year level and provide direction by recommending suitable additional texts for students, as well as setting realistic spelling lists for individuals
- Support the administration of the Seesaw, Reading Eggs, LiteracyPro, Mathseeds, and Mathletics websites by allocating students to the appropriate level of difficulty and responding to parent concerns in this area
- Set varied, challenging and meaningful additional tasks (e.g. prepare a presentation about your Genius Hour topic) for the whole class
- Outline expectations of how the Home Learning is going to be used in class
- Discuss concerns about Home Learning with students and, when necessary, with families
- Contact parents if their children are experiencing learning difficulties in order to discuss the need for and plan additional work to be completed at home

**REVIEW**

Larrakeyah Primary School periodically revises and reviews policies, procedures and approaches to support best practice in teaching and learning. Families are encouraged to contact the school or their child's teacher with feedback surrounding the Home Learning policy. This will be reviewed bi-annually to reflect any updates in this area.

*Updated June 2020*