FCPS Home Learning Policy

**Rationale:**
In conjunction with published DET Guidelines FCPS supports the ideal that school related activities completed at home may benefit students, families and school – community relationships.

**Goals:**
1. To provide opportunities for families to work together in a non competitive manner to ensure that activities completed at home may supplement the goals and expectations of Freny Creek Primary School.
2. To provide further opportunities for parents to remain informed and to participate in their child’s formal education.
3. To provide opportunities for students to engage in resources available to learners in the wider community.

**Implementation:**
1. The term homework has negative connotations and can be misinterpreted by many. Ferny Creek Primary prefers that the term **Home Learning** be used when discussing tasks that can be completed at home.
2. The design of any educational activity should ensure that students can complete tasks in a **stress free** environment and provide every opportunity for the student to **succeed** and not fail.
3. In setting **Home Learning** tasks, consideration will be given to important demands of students in their after school time, the needs of the family and the well being of the student. After school activities such as musical tuition, sport or hobbies are in themselves extremely valuable educational opportunities.
4. The design of **Home Learning** tasks should take into account factors of: interest, challenge and open endedness. They should be purposeful, meaningful and be relevant to the school curriculum and the abilities of the students.
5. The form of **Home Learning** and the expectations of student achievement will vary according to Year Level and individual student and is not intended to be a series of maths and spelling worksheets to be handed out and returned by any particular date.
6. Activities such as reading in all forms can be the most valuable homework task undertaken. The school will provide ideas and suggestions for **Home Learning** from time to time.

**Evaluation and Review:**
This process should be reviewed in line with the regular review schedule.

**Author/ Responsibility/ Date**
EPP/M. Coyle/2011
3.23 Homework guidelines

The Homework Guidelines have been developed by the Department with the assistance of parents, teachers and students in primary and secondary schools in Victoria. The Guidelines provide a framework to help schools engage their communities when reviewing their existing homework policies.

3.23.1 Homework Habits

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

School Councils, in partnership with the principal and teachers and after consultation with parents and students, are responsible for developing and publishing a homework policy consistent with the Homework Habits guidelines.

3.23.1.1 Principles

- Homework is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child’s education. Parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.
- Parents should be advised of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and be provided with a copy of the school’s homework policy.
- Students benefit from completing homework regularly. Homework helps them develop organisational and time-management skills, self-discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and personal responsibility for learning.
- Upper primary and secondary school students should use homework diaries. Diaries provide a means of regular communication between parents and the school.
- Failure by students to complete homework on a regular basis should be followed up with parents.

3.23.2 Successful practice

3.23.2.1 Early Years (Prep - 4)

Prep to Year 4 homework should not be seen as a chore. Homework will:

- enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials
- mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings.

This will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during vacations.