RATIONALE:

Home Learning helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good study habits, organisation skills and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. The school is responsible for developing and publishing a Home Learning policy consistent with the Home Learning Habits guidelines from the Department of Education and Training (DET).

PURPOSE:

At Mill Park Primary School education is seen as a partnership between students, teachers and parents. The development of an effective home learning routine is an integral part in the preparation of students for future learning.

The Home Learning policy encourages independence and a positive attitude to learning. Home Learning will be relevant with a strong focus on revision of previously taught concepts. It is expected that the children will attempt their Home Learning to the best of their ability. Best outcomes are achieved when parents set aside some time each night for Home Learning and take the opportunity to interact with their child during this time.

GUIDELINES:

- Home Learning 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 Home Learning practices from early primary school.
- Parents should be advised of Home Learning expectations at the beginning of the school year and be provided with a copy of the school’s Home Learning policy.
- Students benefit from completing Home Learning regularly. Home Learning helps them develop organisational and time-management skills, self-discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and personal responsibility for learning.
- Students should use Home Learning diaries. Diaries provide a means of regular communication between parents and the school.

IMPLEMENTATION:

EARLY YEARS
Foundation, Year 1, Year 2
- Children will always have a take-home book or other suitable reading material to read. Children will be encouraged to share a variety of reading materials with their parents for approximately fifteen minutes each night.
- Children will be encouraged to practise their counting and number facts regularly to reinforce work done in the classroom.
- Children will have set spelling words to learn over a week.
- At times, unfinished learning tasks may be sent home for children to complete.
- Additional learning tasks may be allocated according to Year Level requirements.
- At times, children will be encouraged to work on class projects at home.

Year 3
- It is compulsory to read for 20 minutes each night and to have reading materials documented and signed by an adult.
- Children will be encouraged to read a variety of material, e.g. take-home books, library books, comics, magazines and newspapers.
- Children will be encouraged to practise their times tables and number facts regularly to reinforce classroom activities.
- Home Learning will be sent home weekly.
- Any Home Learning completed in work books will need to be neatly done with ruled margins.
- Any Home Learning sheets completed will need to be glued into Home Learning books or kept in the Home Learning folder.
At times, children will be encouraged to work on class projects at home.
At times, children will be asked to complete unfinished learning tasks at home.
Children who have any difficulties with any aspect of Home Learning will need to see their classroom teacher before the due date.
Classroom teachers will correct and assess Home Learning and provide timely and practical feedback and support.

MIDDLE YEARS
Year 4, Year 5, Year 6
- Children will receive home learning tasks on a weekly basis.
- It is compulsory to read for 20 minutes each night and to have reading materials documented and signed by an adult.
- Children should always have a literature book or other suitable reading material on hand to read, eg newspaper, magazines. Children will be encouraged to read a variety of reading materials (electronic and print) both aloud and to themselves.
- Home Learning tasks will be set weekly.
- Children who have any difficulty with aspects of the Home Learning should see their classroom teacher before Home Learning is to be handed in.
- Children should practise their times tables and number facts regularly to reinforce work done in the classroom. The importance of this aspect of mathematics cannot be stressed enough.
- At times, unfinished work may be sent home for children to complete.
- The presentation of Home Learning is important and parents and teachers will encourage students to be as neat in the presentation of Home Learning tasks as they would be in the classroom.
- All set Home Learning will be corrected at school.
- Students are encouraged to hand in the completed Home Learning by/on the due date.

EXPECTATIONS:

*Parents and caregivers can help their children by:*
- Encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation.
- Observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their Home Learning is progressing.
- Encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete home learning.
- Contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with Home Learning.
- Helping them to complete Home Learning by discussing key questions or directing them to resources. Usually it is better to encourage children to complete Home Learning themselves.
- Checking whether Home Learning has been set and ensuring they maintain their diaries.

*Mill Park Primary School will:*
- Make resources available to students if internet access or computers are not available from home.
- Adhere to the guidelines from the Department of Education and Training (DET).

In the Early Years (Foundation to Year 3) – Home Learning should not be seen as a chore. Home Learning will:
- Enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering information or materials in an enjoyable way.
- This will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day.

In the Middle Years (Years 4 to 6) Home Learning:
- Should include daily independent reading.
- May include extension of class work, projects, assignments, essays and research.
- This will generally range from 30-40 minutes a day at Year 5 and Year 6.

EVALUATION:
A whole school policy review will occur in line with the school policy review process.