

PEAK SCHOOL HOME LEARNING ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT

PHILOSOPHY

The belief at Peak School is that home learning is an integral link between home and school, encouraging students to become life-long learners. Teachers provide authentic, meaningful activities using a balanced, holistic approach, which encourages family interaction, creativity, life skills and academic learning in line with our PYP philosophy.

We also acknowledge it is important our children are healthy and lead a balanced lifestyle. To this point, Peak School will ensure the amount of home learning that is set for children is manageable and realistic.

IMPLEMENTATION

Approximate guidelines for Year levels:

Year level	Minutes per day (4 times per week)
5 and 6	30 - 35 including reading
3 and 4	20 - 25 including reading
1 and 2	10-20

Home learning will incorporate:

- Reading – all year groups. Home readers and/or chapter books for more able readers.
- Spelling (Year 1 word recognition – magic words, Year 2 magic words and spelling)
- Maths Year 3 – 6 – Mathematics mental computations and games should also be part of regular routines
- An element of choice should also be incorporated into the home learning process. This could include a “must do” and “can do” approach or it could include some type of home learning grid where the children can select a small number of activities/life experiences to complete from a range of options.

Home learning distribution:

- Weekly – given out weekly but not during school holidays

GUIDELINES (for teachers)

- Daily reading will be compulsory (weekdays)
- Parents will be given clear, consistent guidelines and expected time allocation
- Teachers will ensure a consistent approach in line with the implementation above
- Basic skills in Literacy and Mathematics will be practised regularly
- Teachers will acknowledge and celebrate the completion of home learning tasks (homework “choices” to be celebrated, acknowledged and/or displayed but not everything will be formally marked by the teacher e.g. can be shared during circle time)
- Compulsory tasks and expectations will be clearly identified and only previously taught understandings will be included. New concepts or ideas will not be covered in Home Learning
- Teachers will introduce and explain activities (where appropriate)
- Activities will cater for different learning styles (balanced, varied and enjoyable) with opportunities across all curriculum areas when and where appropriate
- Tasks will be open-ended to cater for all abilities
- All home learning will be available on Planet Peak
- Learning activities may be recorded and reported in a variety of ways
- There will be no home learning activities given during the holidays

PARENT’S ROLE:

Parents are asked to:

- provide a quiet area for children to complete their home tasks
- be involved in the reading at home program by listening to, reading with and reading to the children (in equal amounts). Remember the teaching of reading is done at school: reading at home needs to be an enjoyable experience
- check work recorded on Planet Peak
- ensure that the children are thorough and careful in completing home tasks
- discuss the task and guide the children but avoid the temptation of doing it for them
- leave the activity and make note of this in the child’s diary if there is an issue, which cannot be resolved using the above measures so that the teacher can address it the next day

Remember: home learning should be an enjoyable experience for the child. Children should lead a balanced lifestyle so it is important that children also have time to play, interact with others and rest.

STUDENT'S ROLE:

Students will:

- ensure they have access to the home learning activities/tasks either through their teacher or Planet Peak
- make sure they understand the tasks and not be afraid to ask questions if necessary
- set aside a regular time and a quiet well-lit place for completing tasks
- work on home learning independently and only ask for help if needed
- produce work to the best of their ability
- be proud of the work done
- make sure home learning is completed according to instructions and on time
- share home learning with parents and ask for feedback
- ask the teacher for more time before the due date if needed
- expect and embrace feedback
- choose a variety of activities/tasks when appropriate
- ENJOY YOUR HOME LEARNING

Following up on those children not completing home learning tasks

In the event a child is consistently and regularly not completing their home learning tasks (defined as missing two weeks in a row), the teacher will talk to the student and their parents to ascertain the reasons why.

Children should not be kept inside during breaks (snack or lunch) to complete their home learning unless absolutely necessary and supported by the parent and only after the teacher has spoken with the family (as per the point directly above).

However the student and parents need to appreciate that by not completing the home learning their child may not have the reading mileage/skills, spelling or number knowledge, all of which is reinforced through home learning, to call upon when learning in the classroom.