



Learning from Home

Policy Rationale:

To provide learning continuity for your child, it's important they have as much routine and certainty as possible. Schools play a large role in your child's routine. To support learning at home, you're not required to be a subject matter expert or educator. Your role is to partner with your child's school or early childhood service to support your child's home learning.

Aims:

Ballan Primary School will:

- communicate with you and your child on teacher responsibilities and what students and parents need to do
- communicate with you and provide learning activities for your child to do at home
- use their normal communication tools such as the XUNO, Seesaw, newsletters and other online tools.

Ballan Primary School has considered whether families have access to technologies at home. We have catered in our weekly planning for parents that don't have access to the internet or device, which online tools your child can use for home learning during the week of suggested learning tasks.

How Parents/Carers can support learning at home;

You can provide support for your child by:

- establishing routines and expectations
- providing a space for your child to work in
- providing a level of supervision appropriate to your child's stage of development
- monitoring communications from teachers
- checking in with your child often to help them manage and pace their work
- monitoring how much time your child is spending online.



Students Responsibilities will be;

Responsibilities should be adjusted according to the age and needs of your child.

Student responsibilities include:

- monitoring digital platforms and communication often to check for announcements and feedback from teachers
- completing tasks with integrity and academic honesty and doing their best work
- doing their best to meet timelines, commitments and due dates
- communicating proactively with their teachers
- engaging with wellbeing tasks
- engaging with our school wide positive behaviours of Be Responsible, Be a Learner, Be Safe and Be Respectful.

Setting up a learning environment at home;

We recognise that every home is different. Where possible, it's important to provide a quiet and comfortable learning space. Your child may have a regular place for doing homework under normal circumstances, but this space may not be suitable for an extended period of time. For some families, having all children around one table may work best.

Where possible, extended learning should take place in a quiet space your family shares. For example, a lounge room or dining room. These spaces are preferable over a bedroom, where it can be isolating for a child and is unable to be supervised.

Establishing routines and expectations

- Start and end each day with a check-in.
- Encourage regular exercise breaks. Options could include exercise DVDs, apps, dancing, floor exercises, yoga, walking around the garden or using home exercise equipment. For example, a stationary bicycle, basketball hoop, or other sporting equipment.
- Encourage healthy eating habits and drinking enough water.
- Keep normal bedtime routines for younger children. Expect the same from your older primary school aged children too.

It's important that you set these kinds of expectations as soon as learning from home begins, rather than several days later if you notice a child is struggling without a routine. Holiday period breaks, should be the same as a normal holiday break, as children need time to refresh from the term learning program.



Communicating with your child

We encourage you to start and finish each day with a simple check-in. These check-ins can be a regular part of each day.

In the morning, ask:

- What are you learning today?
- What are your learning targets or goals?
- How will you be spending your time?
- What resources do you need? What support do you need?

In the afternoon, ask:

- What did you learn today?
- What was challenging? You could come up with a strategy to deal with the same problem if it comes up again.
- Consider three things that went well today. Why were they good?
- Are you ok? Do you need to ask your teacher for something? Do you need help with something to make tomorrow more successful?

Regular check-ins throughout the day may also be appropriate. This depends on your child's needs.

These questions allow your child to:

- process the instructions they get from their teachers.
- help them organise themselves and set priorities.



Implementation:

1. Each student will be provided with a 'starter pack', which will set them up to have the tools to start a learning from home program.
2. Each classroom teacher will have a preferred communication platform that they will use to communicate with parents/carers and students, some examples of this might be email, Xuno, seesaw, email or via phone.
3. Teachers are contactable during 8.45am to 3.15pm. Outside these hours they will be planning and meeting with their teams on Zoom.
4. If parents have any whole school questions, they can follow the normal processes of sending a message on XUNO or by emailing the Principal directly ferguson.julie.e@edumail.vic.gov.au
5. If families have concerns regarding student wellbeing and mental health please email our wellbeing staff member Janette Richards Richards.janette.e@edumail.vic.gov.au
6. During the 'learning from home' period, classroom teachers will create a weekly plan that they will communicate to parents the week before or in case of a holiday period, the week prior to the term starting date
7. Staff will have their own daily/weekly timetable, where they allocate tasks for themselves, for example, planning, collaborating with other staff, following up with parents/students and administration tasks. Teachers will follow the Victorian Curriculum and use the Department of Education **Learning from Home** resource as well as many other relevant resources.

This policy was updated on March 26th 2020.