



HOME SCHOOLING POLICY

Rationale

- Parents have the right to choose an appropriate education for their children.
- If undertaking home schooling, parents/carers assume overall responsibility for their child's educational program.
- Changes to the regulation of home schooling apply from 1 January 2018.

Purpose

- To ensure that all children have access to high quality education.
- To ensure Footscray North Primary School abides by the provisions of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* and the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017*.

Definition

In Victoria, home schooling during a child's compulsory school years (6-17) is a recognised alternative to attending government or registered non-government schools. The Victorian Government supports parental choice in education and acknowledges that parents who choose to home educate their children do so for a variety of reasons and are willing to commit significant time, energy and resources.

Parents who decide to educate their child from a home base assume overall responsibility for the planning, implementation and assessment of their child's education. While flexible, it is a requirement of registration in Victoria that a home schooled child receives regular and efficient instruction that:

taken as a whole, substantially addresses the eight learning areas set out in Schedule 1 to the Act, unless the VRQA grants an exemption; and

is consistent with the principles and practice of Australian democracy.

The eight learning areas set out in Schedule 1 to the Act are:


- English
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- Humanities and social sciences
- The Arts
- Languages
- Health and Physical Education
- Information and Communication technology, and Design and Technology.

Home schooling may take the form of:

- a broad spectrum of styles, ranging from informal learning approaches to formal curriculum programs.
- one or more parents instructing their child
- groups of home schooling students coming together for activities with an educational or social purpose
- attending excursions and playing sport
- a tutor with specialised knowledge being employed by the parent.

Home schooling may not be a 'quasi' school arrangement where an instructor or teacher is employed to instruct a group of students in the eight learning areas, away from the home base during normal school hours. In this situation normal school registration processes apply.

Implementation

- If a family approaches the school regarding home schooling, the Principal will advise parents/carers
 - of the home schooling requirements under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* that they can request partial enrolment at a school for their child for specific activities
 - that they must apply to the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) for registration and submit the proposed education plan for their child
- The Principal will direct parents/carers to the following website
www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/registration/Pages/homeschooldefault.aspx?Redirect=1
- For further information about the requirements and processes associated with partial enrolment arrangements the Principal will refer to the  [Guidelines for Partial Enrolment for Registered Home Schooled Students \(pdf - 33.26kb\)](#)

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update late October 2018).

This policy was ratified by School Council 25/3/2019

Reference:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/homeschool.aspx