

Home Learning

At Silverstream, we regularly review what we do to ensure it is effective for our students. Our latest review has been around home learning!

The Research

A lot of research has been carried out into the effectiveness of home learning. Studies suggest that for 88% of parents and children home learning is a cause of major stress. Many experts have suggested that large amounts of home learning often cause children to dislike learning – it is done, but not well, and is usually a chore rather than something that is fun. In his research on how children learn best, Professor John Hattie, University of Auckland, found that home learning has little impact. In fact out of a list of 123 things, home learning comes in at number 88.

We learn through experiences (doing) and reflecting on these experiences.



Purposes of Home Learning

At Silverstream School, we want a home learning system that...

- Supports life-long learning
- Is based on individual learning needs
- Encourages positive family dynamics
- Acknowledges all the great learning experiences that happen beyond the school gates

We want a home learning system that...

- Is aligned to the New Zealand Curriculum
- Is aligned to our vision, values and beliefs
- Reflects best practice and research
- Supports the key competencies
- Supports key Literacy and Numeracy knowledge



Home Learning at Each Level

At each level of the school, home learning should be age appropriate and build on key Literacy and Numeracy skills, and Key Competencies, that are being taught in the classroom. Home learning at each level will include the following:

Year 1 – daily reading and various word and basic facts activities throughout the year

Years 2-4 - daily reading, spelling based on the Essential Lists (for students who haven't yet achieved all 7 lists), basic facts

Years 5 and 6 – home learning tasks selected by students to support their current learning targets

Home Learning

We want our home learning system to provide a sense of personal accountability for learning while also meeting the needs of individual learners, (rather than being a 'one size fits all' approach). For this reason, increasing responsibility will be placed on students to make appropriate choices in home learning as they get older.



The Silverstream Achievement Challenges

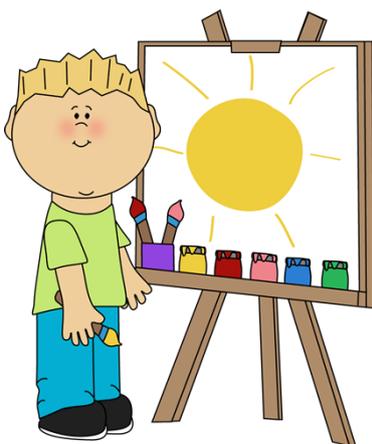
For students in Year 3 to 6 we also offer our Achievement Challenges. Students are set a range of achievement challenges for the year. They are given the opportunity to experience learning through giving, service to the school, physical activities and the outdoors, the arts and academic areas. Contributions to the school and extra-curricular learning are acknowledged.



These challenges are set for the year and students choose to complete those that will provide the most valuable learning for them. They need to complete a certain number of challenges depending on their year level.

The learning that they do needs to be checked by themselves, their parents and their teacher. It is about quality learning, not about the amount of challenges that they race through. We do not want students to just do the tasks –

we want them to complete the challenges to a high standard. It is up to individual students to provide evidence of their learning to their teacher upon completion of a challenge. (This system is not about 'pretty presentation' – it is the doing that counts!)



Students work towards achieving their Challenge Badge (Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum depending on their year level).

Each student will receive an Achievement Booklet that outlines specific details of what needs to be done to earn the Challenge Badge.

Further Information

If you would like to find out more about our home learning programme, please ask your child's classroom teacher.