



Homework Policy

RATIONALE

Homework is considered to be an integral part of the school experience and can enhance student achievement by extending learning beyond the school day. Homework plays a part in developing students with good study habits and self directed learning skills. Parental involvement has beneficial effects on learning and fostering conversations that relate to the academic curriculum.

AIMS

- To assist students to develop worthwhile study habits, which will equip them with strategies to promote independent learning.
- To provide valuable opportunities for students to develop responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline and time management skills.
- To provide opportunities for positive support roles for parents to assist their children.
- To be conscious that homework does not encroach on extra-curricular experiences that students enjoy and from which they gain considerable benefit.

PROCEDURES

- Students are expected to allocate time at home to practise their reading skills and complete mathematical activities.
- Reading daily is considered to be one of the most important homework elements for all students.
- Parents may be expected to assist but not to do homework for their child.

Prep to Year 2

- Homework will be routinely set during the week.
- Students are encouraged to pursue reading and learn words.
- Occasional collection of items relevant to particular areas of study may be given on an informal basis at the teacher's discretion.
- Children of this age may benefit from 1:1 support with homework tasks, especially reading for meaning.
- Guideline for the duration of homework is up to 10 minutes.

Years 3 to 6

- Homework will be routinely set during the week.
- Depending upon the type of tasks being required to be completed at home, homework may be set:
 - At the beginning of the week for completion by the end of the week
 - For completion by the next school day
- Students are expected to demonstrate pride in their homework by completing the work neatly and returning it on time.
- Guidelines for duration of homework are:
 - Years 3 & 4: up to 15 minutes consisting of reading and practising some mathematical activities four nights a week.
 - Years 5 & 6: up to 20 minutes, consisting of reading and practising some mathematical activities four nights a week.

Responsibilities of Teachers

- Homework that is set has clear and full directions for the students and is relevant and complementary to class work.
- Teachers are responsible for reviewing, marking and providing feedback to students about their homework.
- Teachers return homework promptly to students.
- Teachers are responsive to parents' concerns about circumstances, which may impact on the completion of their children's homework.

Parents and Homework

Parents can support their child's learning by:

- Making homework time as pleasant as possible.

- Providing a suitable quiet, well-lit area for homework completion.
- Establishing a homework routine.
- Encouraging children to work reasonably quickly and efficiently – adhering to recommended time frames and liaising with teachers if time limits are difficult to meet or the student is overwhelmed by a task.
- Keeping explanations simple and practical when actively helping with a particular task.
- Demonstrating, encouraging and where possible expressing approval and satisfaction.
- Notifying class teachers if family constraints make it difficult for a homework task to be completed and discuss alternatives and options.

This policy will be reviewed as part of St Patrick's Catholic School's policy review cycle.

Ratified by the school board: August 2023.