

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale:

At St. Mary's we believe that homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Whilst recognising that children are involved in many extracurricular activities we feel that homework gives the child the opportunity to organise a personal timetable, which helps to develop the child's organisational abilities and study patterns for future years. For this reason, we ask parents, within reasonable limits, to allow their child to decide for themselves when homework should be done. Parents and teachers can assist a child with homework by establishing a homework timetable. After this, the responsibility belongs to the child.

Belief Statements:

Formal homework on a regular basis should be confined to the middle and senior classes. Children in Prep to Year 2 are expected to read each night with an adult and at times, complete other tasks related to their reading. This should be seen as a worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

Homework will consist of a range of different activities, including revision of work carried out in class. The majority of this work will be in the areas of English and Mathematics, however, there may be occasions when homework is given from other subject areas.

Homework tasks will be of a consistent format allowing children to easily understand and complete their homework independently.

Children in Years 3, 4, and 6 will be expected to complete homework related to the Sacramental Program.

Guidelines:

- Each child in Grades 3-6 will be assigned weekly homework which will be recorded in their school diary.
- The amount of homework will vary according to age and learning needs.
- Homework will be set across the year level.
- Homework set will be differentiated so that the children can complete the activities at their own level where appropriate.

- Teachers will oversee the correction of children's work.
- Reading should occur on a nightly basis.
- Weather conditions (heat) and changes to the usual school routine should be taken into consideration.
- Homework will only be set during school terms. Children are still expected to read during the holidays.

Different types of homework:

A combination of any of the following can be used at any one time when setting homework.

	English	Maths	Other
Prep - Year 2	Reading for 15 minutes each night with an adult which can include sight words, take home reader or good fit book. Fortnightly oral presentations with assessment rubric.		
Year 3 (15 mins plus 20 mins reading).	Comprehension, spelling and grammar activities. Reading for 20 minutes each night. Fortnightly oral presentations with assessment rubric.	Maths sheets with a focus on number and skip counting in Terms 1 and 2, and multiplication and division in Terms 3 and 4.	Sacramental, Social and Emotional Learning tasks or other activities may be set by the teacher in place of usual homework.
Year 4 (20 mins plus 20 mins reading).	Comprehension, spelling, and grammar activities. Reading for 20 minutes each night.	Maths sheets with a focus on multiplication and division tasks.	

Year 5/6 (30 mins plus 30 mins reading).	Comprehension, spelling and grammar activities. Novel study activity. Reading for 30 minutes each night. Fortnightly oral presentations with assessment rubric.	Maths sheets covering a range of maths concepts.	
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Children can be flexible in the organisation and completion of homework, however reading should be completed each night.

Expectations:

Expectations of Parents

1. Provide a suitable, quiet place to carry out homework; guide the child in organising his/her time.
2. Encourage the child to develop a routine to always have the work completed on time.
3. Encourage the child to work independently and seek assistance the next day from their classroom teacher if unsure.
4. Communicate with the teacher when necessary.
5. Ensure appropriate writing implements are kept at home (eg. Greylead pencils, blue pens, rulers, red pens or pencils, dictionary and glue) to complete the homework.
6. Parents provide a written note or email if their child is unable to complete their work.
7. Parents to sign homework/reading diaries.

Expectations of Students

1. Complete homework to a standard consistent with the level expected in the class (eg. Correct letter formation, margins, correct writing implements used).
2. Seek assistance from teachers if they are having difficulty with the set work.
3. Each child is to complete their homework with as much independence as possible.
4. Have homework/reading diaries signed weekly.

Expectations of Teachers

1. Homework is prepared and distributed by the teacher to the children on a Monday.

2. Homework is collected and corrected on Friday.
3. If homework is not completed by the due date or not completed to an appropriate standard, it is expected that the teacher will follow up the matter.
4. Prep – Year 6 teachers are to check student reading diaries weekly.

Consequences:

We realise that families are very busy from time to time and that children are sometimes unable to complete their homework. If this is the case a note from a parent or guardian will be sufficient for a child to be considered to be excused for not having completed their homework.

If no note is presented the following consequences will be applied.

Middle & Senior School (Resets each term)

First Incident: Incurs a warning and a chance to finish the homework on the due date during first break.

Second Incident: Parent notified and homework completed during second half in lunchtime club.

Third Incident: Meeting between parent, child, teacher and Principal.

Junior School (If reading is not being completed at home)

First Incident: A note in the student diary.

Second Incident: Meeting with the teacher and parent.

Third Incident: Meeting between parent, teacher and Principal.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Compiled: May 2024 *St Mary's Teaching Staff, Students and Parents*

Review: May 2027

Responsible: School Leadership Team