

Policy Statement

The homework policy at St Mary's Primary School is a guide for teachers, parents and carers in helping children with homework.

Rationale:

- 2.1 At St Mary's Primary School, we believe that homework is important to consolidate work covered in class and to establish study habits in students.
- 2.2 Homework is set by class teachers for students to complete at home.
- 2.3 Homework is an opportunity for interaction between parents and children. It enables parents/carers to keep in touch with what their children are learning and it gives them the opportunity to participate and reinforce classroom work.
- 2.4 As students move through the year levels they will be expected to take on increasing responsibility for managing their time and organising their own work loads. This is an essential component of our role as primary educators as we prepare our students for the demands and increased expectations of middle school.
- 2.5 As educators it is our responsibilities to provide our students with homework that reflects best current practice based on educational research.

Parent Guide.

Parents and carers have a very important role in supporting their child/children throughout their education. Homework is an aspect of school life that continues to build the relationship between home and school. Homework should be enjoyable and achievable by the student and it should consolidate work covered in the classroom. It is also important that there is a good balanced with sport, hobbies, music, play and family life. If there are things happening at home which may have an impact on the student's ability to complete homework, please let the teacher know and we can accommodate the particular circumstances.

A guide to making homework achievable and successful for your child:-

- Give encouragement and support to your child
- Enjoy the opportunity to learn with your child in a positive interactive environment
- Engage with your child about their learning
- Supervise, guide and facilitate your child's learning, try not to do it for them.
- Make time to listen to your child read or organise another family member to hear reading particularly in the early years.
- Provide healthy snacks and water to improve concentration levels
- Make sure students have a good night's sleep so they are not too tired during or after school
- Provide quiet flat space to work.

- Minimise distractions while homework is being done. This could mean no TV, phone calls or messages, loud music.
- Monitor what students are doing on the computer. Some activities may be homework related - Athletics. Others like chat rooms and Facebook are not.
- Communicate with the teacher if there are problems or when things are working well.
- Balance homework with other important areas like sport, music and family events.

1. Implementation

| Year Level | Expectations | Time Frame |
|------------|--|----------------------------|
| Transition | Reader Phonics:- sight words | 15 minutes each night |
| Year 1 | Reader Incidental maths | 10 – 15 minutes each night |
| Year 2 | Reader Maths | 10 - 15 minutes each night |
| Year 3 | Reader Spelling, language and maths tasks | 20 – 25 minutes each night |
| Year 4 | Reader Spelling, language and maths tasks | 25 – 30 minutes each night |
| Year 5 | Reading Homework matrix. The matrix contains a range of activities from each KLA reflecting class work. | 30 – 40 minutes each night |
| Year 6 | Reading Homework matrix. The matrix contains a range of activities from each KLA reflecting class work. | 30– 40 minutes each night |

2. Homework Reporting/Parent Feedback

- 2.1 Teachers are required to mark each child's homework and provide constructive feedback for the child.
- 2.2 Teachers will formally report on homework in each semester report.

3. Homework during School Absences

If your child is going to be away from school during the term (i.e not school holiday time) for family holidays/travelling we suggest:-

- 3.1 Keeping a diary about their trip
- 3.2 A journal of their activities
- 3.3 Writings and drawings about what they have seen or done

3.4 Prepare an oral presentation about their trip to share with the class

Review:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.
- This policy was last ratified by School Board on 16 August 2012.

Review History:

| Year of review | Reviewed by | Amendments/Reviews |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| August 2012 | Board | ratified |

Next review:

| Year of review | Committee responsible |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 2016 | Staff |