



HOMEWORK POLICY

Vision

St Martin's Catholic Primary School is a school community that recognises the uniqueness of every person, nurturing faith and wellbeing, and pursuing excellence in education.

Rationale

At St Martin's Catholic Primary School, we believe that homework is a part of the total educational experience. It is a continuation or extension of the classroom and is intended to enrich and extend student learning. John Hattie's research states, that homework, on its own, has little impact on learning outcomes for students. What makes measurable difference to student learning is quality parental involvement in their child's world, reading quality books, accessing quality books that encourages personal reading for pleasure and when required, for intentional research and learning.

At St Martin's, we believe that parents' authentic conversations with their child about the world around them enhances their oral language skills, increases vocabulary and contributes to the student's understanding of the world around them.

We acknowledge that families have multi-faceted lifestyles and the need to achieve balance between work and play. The setting of homework needs to consider the differing learning styles of each student, differing family circumstances and their after school commitments.

As students move into the higher levels of schooling, homework is an extension of what students do in the classroom and it teaches them that learning takes place in and outside of school. However, we do believe that if a student requires extra practice at a skill or strategy, the teacher will arrange practice work that is designed for that student.

Aims

The aims of St Martin's Catholic Primary School Homework Policy is to:

- reinforce learning by providing practice and application of skills or completion of familiar, unfinished work
- develop responsibility and independent study habits through learning to manage time
- utilise out-of-school resources for learning, giving students the opportunity to explore, create and broaden interests without classroom limits
- incorporate parents or significant others into the students' school experiences through related home activities.

Implementation

Homework should NOT include new learning, but provide parents with an opportunity to help consolidate what students are learning in class. Year level groups will provide more detail about homework requirements in the Parent Handbook or via class newsletters or emails.

- Homework will be suited to the needs and abilities of the individual student.
- Homework assignments will be specific. Students should know what is expected of them and the task should be within the student's ability.
- The purpose, appropriateness, quality, and timeliness of homework will be evaluated periodically.

Homework Guidelines

Below is an outline of what homework will be expected from each year level from Reception to Year 6. We appreciate that families are busy and that commitments come up so if a student is unable to complete their homework that night, then an email can be sent or a note addressed to the class teacher.

Reception (10 minutes)

The focus for homework is short, regular practice and reinforcement of reading, sounds and oral language.

- Reading – rhymes, oral language book packs and take home readers.
- Letters and Sounds practice.
- Oral language preparation for class presentations (as instructed per term).

Year 1 (15 minutes)

The focus for homework is regular practice and reinforcement of strategies and skills.

- Reading 10 minutes.
- May include Activity Grid.
- Oral language preparations/Show and Tell (as instructed per term).

Year 2 (20 minutes)

The focus for homework is regular practice and reinforcement of strategies and skills.

- Reading 15 minutes.
- May include Activity Grid
- Oral language preparations/Show and Tell (as instructed per term).

Year 3 – 5 (30 minutes)

The focus for homework is regular practice and reinforcement of strategies and skills.

- Homework should not exceed 30 minutes per week night (including reading).

Year 6 (40 minutes)

The focus for homework is regular practice and reinforcement of strategies and skills.

- Homework is approximately 40 minutes per week night plus 20 minutes reading time.

Holiday Homework

A holiday is a rich experience with great learning opportunities that is shared with family and friends. If a family is planning to take a holiday during school term our policy is NOT to give homework. Much of the learning that takes place at school requires assessment and is not based around worksheets. If parents would like their child/ren to do something during their holiday, our suggestion is that a student writes or records a journal of their trip. Students can then share their rich experiences with the class upon their return.

Implemented:	June 2018
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Reviewed:	2021
Next Review:	2024