Homework Policy

Related Policies
Homework Policy, Catholic Education Office

Purpose
This policy is to guide teachers in the setting of homework for their class and to clarify the responsibilities of students, parents and teachers in the homework cycle.

The school believes homework:
- assists in developing effective organisation skills
- establishes routines for future study
- consolidates learning and understandings from class work
- involves parents in their child’s education
- creates a link between home and school

Definition
Homework is a purposeful, out of class learning activity, set by the teacher that enhances what the student has already learnt at school.

Policy

Home Reading
All students in Kindergarten to Year 6 will enjoy a regular reading time each day. Readers will be provided from Kindergarten onwards, however students will be expected to self-select home reading material with increasing independence during their time at St Benedict’s. Parents will be encouraged to ‘read to’ and ‘read with’ their children in the early years.

Regular Homework
Students will be provided with regular homework activities for at least 4 nights for the week.

Kindergarten
Literacy
Groups of sight words will be introduced from Term 2.

Year 1 & 2
Literacy /Numeracy:
Students will participate in no more than 30 minutes over the entire week involving:
- Literacy: e.g. sight words OR spelling OR preparing oral presentation (news).
- Numeracy: e.g. consolidation of number facts and combinations to 20.
- Sharing learning with parents.

Other than reading, homework is optional from K-2 – parents will need to indicate their choice at the beginning of each semester so that teachers can respond appropriately. Homework is not optional from Years 3-6.

Year 3 & 4
Literacy /Numeracy/ Other:
Students will participate in no more than 60 minutes over the entire week.

Year 5/ 6
Literacy /Numeracy/ Other:
Students will participate in no more than 80 - 100 minutes over the entire week.
Agreed Practice
Teachers will have autonomy to organise homework in regards to:
- distribution and collection times;
- marking and feedback style;
- activities that are developed for homework, provided they meet the above mentioned parameters.

It will be recommended that students in Year 3 and above have two homework books that are alternately used to allow teachers sufficient time to read and respond appropriately to all homework submitted.

Teachers will have high expectations regarding the completion of homework; however, will not be expected to chase students for homework that is incomplete or not submitted.

Teachers will positively recognise the efforts of students who do complete homework regularly and to a high standard.

Roles & Responsibilities
The following roles and responsibilities will be expected from all stakeholders.

The School will:
- support children in developing reading skills through access to the school’s home reading material;
- provide information for parents in the form of a ‘Homework Kit’ at time of enrolment at St Benedict’s Primary School – (including a copy of the homework policy and helpful strategies for supporting their child at home);
- include homework as an agenda item for the parent information evening at the beginning of the year.

The Classroom Teacher will:
- establish and maintain a consistent routine for setting homework;
- ensure the purpose, value and expectation of the work set is clear to the teacher setting the work, the student who has to complete it and parents supporting their children;
- ensure students have necessary knowledge and skills to successfully complete the homework (e.g. work is not new to the student);
- set homework that can be completed in allocated time;
- set homework that is appropriate for each student's age and ability;
- take into account students' other commitments and availability of technology;
- mark the homework, providing effective feedback;
- not set assessment tasks as homework.

The Students will:
- ask questions early to clarify any issues or misunderstandings;
- seek help from the teacher early if they experience difficulty;
- return homework on the day set by the teacher or ask for exemption or extension with the support of parents (a note to explain the reason(s));
- ask the teacher for a copy of the homework if they were absent on the day it was given;
- present homework that is legible and neat;
- care for the homework book/folder.

The Parents/ Carers will
- take an active interest in their child's homework;
- support their child in setting aside time each day for homework;
- provide a dedicated place for homework and study if possible;
- assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested, and be aware of the amount of homework set;
Nurturing personal and academic growth…a journey from Kindergarten to Year 6.

- communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or their child's approach to homework;
- contact the school regarding any domestic circumstances or extra curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration.

Approved by: St Benedict's Primary School Board

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