



St Mary's Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Policy Statement

This policy will outline the purpose of Home Learning at St Mary's and the responsibilities and requirements of students, teachers and parents.

Rationale

At St Mary's we believe that a whole school consistent approach to Home Learning provides an opportunity for meaningful and purposeful partnerships between home and school. There is a commitment to provide for the holistic and personalised development of all students, supporting them to maintain a positive learning disposition and develop skills that include, but are not limited to;

- organisational and time management
- self discipline
- personal responsibility for learning
- research.

We acknowledge that many students are involved in a range of extracurricular activities and therefore a flexible scheduling of Home Learning is provided.

Responsibilities

1. Teachers can support students by:

- equipping students with the skills to solve problems
- encouraging real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- giving students enough time to complete Home Learning, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- acknowledging Home Learning and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensuring parents/carers are aware of the school's Home Learning policy at the beginning of the school year
- developing strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in Home Learning.

2. Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's Home Learning policy

- discussing with their parents or caregivers Home Learning expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of Home Learning tasks within set time frames
- acting on feedback provided by teachers in a timely way
- talking to teachers about any queries they may have about their Home Learning
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

3. Parents can support students by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to Home Learning
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on Home Learning and recreational activities
- reading to and with them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- encouraging them to talk to teachers about any queries they may have about their Home Learning
- discussing Home Learning with their child and linking it to previous experiences
- linking Home Learning and other learning activities to the families’ culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community groups.

Definitions

Homework* is broadly defined as:

Student learning activities conducted outside of school hours, as assigned by the classroom teacher.
(Cambridge English Dictionary)

We have renamed homework to Home Learning to reflect the belief that students are ‘learning’ not merely ‘working’ when thinking, talking, playing and reflecting. Home Learning encompasses sport and other cultural activities as well as family time and discussion when many forms of learning occur

Implementation

St Mary’s will provide Home Learning in a fortnightly grid format (**see Appendix 1**) that gradually builds student independence and time management skills as they progress through the school.

Reading and Home Help are compulsory for all levels. Remaining elements can be chosen from: Maths, Family Activity, Inquiry, Speaking and Listening, Writing/Handwriting/Spelling, Digital Technology, The Arts, Explore your passion, Prayer.

Year Level	Reading (minutes per night - on average)	Home Learning	Suggested time per fortnight (not including reading)
Foundation	10-15	3 elements	30 minutes
Year 1	15	6 elements	45 minutes
Year 2	15-20	6 elements	60 minutes
Year 3	15-20	9 elements	1.5 hours
Year 4	20	9 elements	2 hours
Year 5	20	12 elements	2.5 hours
Year 6	20	12 elements	3 hours

Review

Every policy will be reviewed as per the schools review cycle

Approved by the Board: 12 March, 2019

Review Date: As per the Policy Review Schedule

Year ____ Home Learning

Weeks: 1/2

Students are to complete all activities over the two week period. Record your Reading and complete any activities in your Home Learning book and/or Google Classroom.

<p>Reading Can include reading for pleasure, reading fiction, newspapers, magazines, textbooks and assigned reading of texts</p>	<p>Home Help Students need to pick up after themselves and assist with activities for their benefit such as; helping prepare meals, tidying their rooms, cleaning the house, gardening, sweeping.</p>	<p>Maths Students can complete Matific activities. Play a variety of mathematic games; including card and dice games.</p>
<p>Word Work Explore banks of words with the same spelling pattern.</p>	<p>Family Activity Play a board game, Lead your family in a personal training session Family bike ride Family walk Attend Mass together as a Family</p>	<p>Inquiry Complete a survey with your family Gather data Make links to current affairs and your current unit of work Watch videos Create a quiz</p>
<p>Speaking and Listening Prepare a formal / informal speech about a topic of personal choice. Ask mum/dad questions about....</p>	<p>Writing/Handwriting Practise handwriting formation Write a letter to a guest speaker Fast write</p>	<p>Digital Technology Explore different apps Create docs, experiment with font size etc</p>
<p>Prayer Say grace before meals, Set up a prayer space, talk about prayer Write a prayer</p>	<p>The Arts Listen to different types of music to relax Practice musical instruments Design a poster Learn a dance</p>	<p>Explore your Passion Research something of personal interest</p>