

	Topic:	Homework Policy
	Policy No:	2-B
	Policy Area:	Education
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RATIONALE

Homework is an integral part of a child’s education. It promotes a relationship that helps maintain communication between school and home on the child’s academic growth and it reinforces basic skills and concepts that have been taught in class. It also helps establish good study habits in the child.

PRINCIPLES

Children will be able to:

1. Demonstrate independence and ownership of their own learning.
2. Confidently complete understandable, applicable and purposeful homework tasks.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of and transfer of concepts taught in class to complete set homework.
4. Develop consistent, independent study habits.
5. Receive feedback from their teacher, as soon as possible, after completing their homework.
6. Share their learning with their parents through the opportunities that arise during the completion of homework tasks.

PROCEDURES

1. Homework varies from year to year and class teachers will inform parents of what is required.
2. At St Mary’s School, homework will be set for Monday to Thursday nights, leaving the weekend free.

3. The Homework Policy is accessible on the St Mary's School website and will form part of the Parent Information handout delivered at the Parent/Teacher Meetings early in Term One of each year.
4. The following is an approximate guide for each year level:
 - Children in Year 1/2 should spend time talking about their school day, enjoying reading and being read to, completing basic number skills, practising sight words and Spelling. The recommended time for homework is up to 20 minutes per homework night.
 - Children in Year 3/4 may undertake work in Reading, Spelling, Mental Maths. The recommended time for homework is up to 30 minutes per homework night.
 - Children in Year 5/6 may undertake work in Reading, Spelling and Mental Maths. The recommended time for homework is up to 30 to 40 minutes per homework night.
5. Teachers' discretion will be used as to time allocated for homework. Homework only contains revision concepts, no new concepts should be set. Excessive and irrelevant homework should never be set.
6. Teachers need to ensure work set is marked/checked. This could happen through parent, peer, teacher or group marking.
7. Mental Maths focus will be relevant to the Numeracy Plan Scope and Sequence and focus on fluency and accuracy.
8. Parents are invited to contact the teacher of their child if they have any queries in regards to homework in a timely manner.
9. Students in Years One and Two will have a Communication Book. Students in Years Three to Six will have and use a School Diary.
10. Parents and teachers are asked to check and sign the Communication Book and School Diary on a regular basis as communicated at the Parent Teacher Meeting at the beginning of each school year.
11. Parents are asked to inform teachers, in writing via the Communication Book or School Diary, if their child has a legitimate reason for not completing their home work by the due date.

KINDY AND PRE PRIMARY

Kindy and Pre Primary, Early Childhood Education, has an emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language, and social and emotional development, including early literacy and numeracy.

In accordance with the mandated Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, and the Foundation Level of the Australian National Curriculum, it is not developmentally appropriate and best early childhood practice to allocate homework to Kindy and Pre Primary students. Therefore, at St Mary's School, Kindy and Pre Primary students will not be allocated rigorous and conventional homework.

In Pre Primary, reading books will only be sent home at the point of readiness for each individual child. The classroom teacher will discuss the allocation of reading books with individual parents prior to the books being sent home. The Pre Primary children will be given the opportunity to choose an appropriate levelled reading book that contains and reinforces sight words learned by the child at school. Sight word games may accompany the reading book. It is recommended that the reading book activity take 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

KINDY AND PRE PRIMARY LITERACY AND NUMERACY BAGS

At St Mary's School, the Early Childhood Team believes in a hands on, fun, positive approach to learning that promotes success. At the commencement of Term Three, Literacy and Numeracy Bags will be sent home with all children. These bags promote socialising with family members and the reinforcement of concepts learnt at school in Literacy and Numeracy. The bags will contain games, challenges and reading books appropriate to each child's abilities. These bags are changed weekly.

HOLIDAYS DURING SCHOOL TERMS

Family holidays during the school term are not encouraged. This is a disruption to your child's education. It is preferred that students do not take holidays during school terms.

Teachers are under no obligation to prepare work for children taking holidays during school time as the work completed during class can deviate depending on the needs of the children at the time.

Parents/guardians may wish to purchase educational material from an educational supplier for their child. However, it is the parents/guardians responsibility to mark this work and give feedback immediately for this to be valuable for learning.

Practical activities for holidays and trips include:

- Play word games e.g. sign alphabet - the first person to see all the signs beginning with each of the letters of the alphabet
- Play 'I spy'
- Play travel board games
- Read a book, brochures, magazines, signs
- Listen to audio books
- Visit educational sites whilst on holidays
- Write a diary