



HOMework POLICY

Scriptural context

“To be wise you must first have reverence for the Lord. If you know the Holy One you have understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

Rationale

St. Patrick’s Primary School believes that homework is beneficial for the development of students when it:

- Establishes and promotes good study habits for the present and future.
- Encourages responsibility for their own learning.
- Reinforces learning.
- Is considerate of bus travel time for students and other cultural, sporting or family commitments.

Aim

Homework aims to provide students with opportunities to consolidate their learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involves family members.

Guidelines

Reading

As reading is an essential lifelong skill, particular attention is given to reading as a major component of the homework. We also aim to encourage a love of books and reading. The habit of reading every night is vital to support students in developing their reading skills.

Kindergarten & Stage 1- Homework focuses on reading, learning sight words and sound/letter knowledge, with spelling words included in Stage 1.

Stages 2 and 3 - Homework focuses on reading and set tasks, which consolidates learning. Students may be given the opportunity to have some input into the homework task.

Teacher Responsibilities

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- Setting homework on a regular basis that is related to learning
- Checking homework regularly and providing timely feedback
- Using homework that is varied, challenging, directly related to learning and appropriate to students’ learning needs

Parental and Caregivers Responsibilities

Bakker and Denessen (2007) specifies “.....the contribution of the home environment to educational outcomes lies not in how parents teach their children specific subjects or content, but how they guide and encourage their children in learning (p.18).”

Parents and Caregivers can help their children by:

- Reading and talking with them and involving them in tasks at home, including shopping, playing games and musical instruments and physical activity.

- Encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events.
- Encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their own learning, assisting them to find a balance between homework and other cultural, sporting or family commitments.
- Sighting homework tasks.
- Contacting the teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.

Student Responsibilities

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- Discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations.
- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework expectations within set time frames.
- Following up on feedback made by teachers.
- Seeking assistance when difficulties arise from teacher or parent.
- Organising their time to manage and balance home expectations, and other cultural, sporting or family commitments.

Suggested Time for Homework

	Suggested Time per day
Kinder:	10 -15 minutes
Stage 1:	15 - 20 minutes
Stage 2:	20 - 30 minutes
Stage 3:	30 - 40 minutes

Reflective Materials

- St. Patrick's Primary School Learning and Teaching Policy 2017
- St. Patrick's Primary School Homework Survey: Student, Staff & Parents 2019
- Homework Policy: - Homework Guidelines. D.E.C. 2012
- Family-School Partnerships Framework, A Guide for Schools and Families, DEEWR, Australian Government, 2012

This policy was last ratified by St. Patrick's School Advisory Council in....	June 2007 August 2014 November 2019
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