



HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONALE

At St. Paul's Catholic Parish Primary School we believe that homework should be a purposeful activity that seeks to enhance each child's educational opportunity. Therefore homework should reflect and reinforce what is happening in the classroom.

We believe that quality of learning is more important than the quantity. With this in mind the homework will vary based on developmentally appropriate practices. In the early years students learn to read and will be involved in reading to their parents / caregiver and vice versa. As the students become older and more capable their reading will be more self-directed. Reading for enjoyment and reading for learning become the focus. Homework can then reinforce classroom curriculum themes and support student learning as appropriate for the ability of the individual student. It should be recognised that not all homework needs to take the form of written work.

We believe that homework is a helpful way of developing important skills such as organisation of resources, time management, practice and drill, independence, responsibility and personal research. We believe that homework should respect the need of every child to enjoy adequate recreation and to participate in family activities.

AIMS

Through this policy St. Paul's School aims to:

- Assign homework with a purpose.
- Reinforce what is happening in the classroom.
- Communicate with home what students are learning.
- Develop skills in organisation of resources, time management, practice and drill, independence, responsibility and personal research.

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation process is detailed below indicating the homework features, activities and the expectations of Parents, Teachers and Students for homework at the school.

Homework Features

- The homework will operate on a seven day cycle for all classes from K to 6.
- Half of the allocated homework time should be for daily reading and the rest of the time given to the activity, which can be completed at anytime within the seven day cycle.
- The reading is meant to be easy and familiar.
- The homework expectations will be explained at the information night, by the teacher, at the beginning of the year.

Class	Total time for the 7 day cycle
K	40 minutes
YR 1 & 2	60 minutes
YR 3 & 4	80 minutes
YR 5 & 6	2:00 hours

Homework Activities

The homework activity will ;

- Cover a variety of Key Learning areas, ensuring that the activity is age appropriate and achievable,
- Revise class work and reinforce concepts taught in class,
- Cater for individual student differences,
- Offer a variety of formats.

Expectations of Parents

- Be familiar with St. Paul’s Homework Policy.
- Provide a physical environment free from distractions where children have access to materials needed, eg. desk, pens, glue, etc, away from television.
- Show interest, monitor homework tasks and assist with time management and organisation of weekly homework.
- Parents should generally expect a high level of independence in the completion of homework.
- Parents communicate any difficulties experienced by children so the homework can be modified.

If homework cannot be completed due to unforeseen circumstances a note to the teacher is required

Expectations of Teachers

- Provide an outline to parents and children at the beginning of the year of homework expectations.
- Provide meaningful tasks that extend or review work that has been covered in class time.
- Give clear, explicit instructions to children regarding homework tasks.
- Provide feedback to children and correct the homework
- Contact parents via a letter when homework is repeatedly not completed.

Expectations of Children

- Accept responsibility for the completion of the homework, and complete tasks to the best of their ability.
- Ask for help from the teacher and family if necessary.
- Ensure the work is completed neatly and presented within the expected time frame.

EVALUATION

This policy was reviewed in 2010.

The policy was developed in conjunction with information provided through parent and staff surveys, current research available on homework issues and Diocesan policy.