



## St Patrick's School Homework Guidelines

### **RATIONALE**

At St. Patrick's School we believe that teachers and parents working closely together provide the optimal conditions for the children's learning to be most effective. The home is a rich learning environment that provides real life contexts in which children can demonstrate their attributes as life-long learners.

Homework enhances the links between home, school and the community and gives parents an opportunity to become involved in school learning.

Homework assists in:

- ❑ giving real life applications for learning.
- ❑ revising, reinforcing and enhancing basic literacy and numeracy.
- ❑ encouraging time management skills, self-discipline and building good work habits.
- ❑ building a bridge between school and home.

### **OUR BELIEFS ABOUT HOMEWORK**

To be most effective we believe that homework should:

- ❑ be flexible enough to consider family needs taking into consideration rest, relaxation, recreation, family responsibilities and other activities.
- ❑ not be a source of conflict between parent and child.
- ❑ focus on reading
- ❑ reinforce concepts and skills taught in the classroom.
- ❑ be relevant to the learning that is taking place in the classroom.
- ❑ be age/level appropriate so that success can be achieved independently in a set time frame.
- ❑ take into account individual children's learning abilities.
- ❑ be structured and easy to follow.
- ❑ be acknowledged and corrected by the teacher
- ❑ be monitored to ascertain students who regularly do not complete the homework.

### **WORKING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS**

For homework to be effective, a partnership needs to exist between home and school. Parents, teachers and children each have responsibilities.

**Parents and caregivers can help by:**

- ❑ reading and talking to children.
- ❑ providing a suitable learning environment with minimal distractions and necessary resources.
- ❑ helping children to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities.
- ❑ assisting children to understand set tasks.
- ❑ discussing with children current affairs.
- ❑ actively guiding, encouraging and supporting children to become responsible and independent learners.
- ❑ communicating to teachers any concerns that arise with the children's home learning.
- ❑ allowing children to be responsible for completion of homework tasks.

### Teachers can help by:

- ❑ effectively communicating homework expectations to parents
- ❑ ensuring the children are aware of what is expected of them.
- ❑ setting relevant learning activities which allow for individual needs.
- ❑ encouraging children to participate in real life activities that develop the whole child. eg shopping, craft, cooking, sport, quiet time, or music.
- ❑ acknowledging and correcting work.
- ❑ contacting parents to discuss strategies aimed at assisting with any difficulties the student may be experiencing.

### Children can help by:

- ❑ listening to information given.
- ❑ accepting responsibility for ensuring homework tasks are brought to and from school when required.
- ❑ seeking assistance with and clarification of the task if needed.
- ❑ using strategies and following advice given by teachers.
- ❑ completing homework tasks to the best of their ability .
- ❑ talking to family about school activities and current events .
- ❑ working towards becoming independent learners.

## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES

Classroom teachers will set homework tasks that complement and therefore reflect our common beliefs about homework. Home learning in each year level will include a reading task.

In setting homework tasks the following time frames are a guideline.  
Children may do extra work if they choose.

	<b>Written Tasks: Daily Allocation</b>	<b>Night Reading</b>	<b>Real Life Activities</b>
Prep	Nil	10 mins	Minimum of 20 minutes per week to be allocated to non-scheduled activities that help to develop the whole child.
Year One	Nil	10 mins	
Year Two	5 - 10 mins	10 mins	
Year Three	5 - 10 mins	10 mins	
Year Four	15 mins	10 - 15 mins	
Year Five	15 mins	10 - 15mins	
Year Six	15 mins	20 mins	

- ❑ This time can be spread over the week to equal the same amount as 4 nights of homework.
- ❑ Set homework tasks should be the same or similar across the year level.
- ❑ Homework should be flexible enough to consider family needs taking into consideration rest, relaxation, recreation, family responsibilities and other activities.
- ❑ Homework should be able to be achieved in the times allocated above taking into account individual children's learning abilities.

### **State Guidelines for maximum homework hours over a week recommend:**

Prep:	Generally will not be set homework.
Years 1 - 3:	Up to but not more than 1 hour per week.
Years 4 - 5:	Up to but not more than 2 - 3 hours per week.
Year 6	Up to but not more than 3 - 4 hours per week.