

HOMEWORK POLICY 2014

Rationale

At St Thomas the Apostle Primary School we believe that homework is a valuable tool in a student's learning. It develops a positive link between school and home and informs parents of school curriculum and student development. Homework reinforces important concepts and develops positive study habits and time management skills.

Procedure

Each level will agree upon the content, time frame and structure of the homework being set per level. The school's philosophy of learning will be reflected in the homework expectations. Reading is an essential part of homework across all levels. This may include reading to, reading with or by students as well as independent reading. Tasks will be differentiated where possible and student choice will be a consideration. Activities may use technology, be written, 'hands on', open-ended or family orientated. Work that is to be assessed will not rely solely on efforts conducted at home.

Responsibilities of Individuals

Students:

- take responsibility for completing set tasks;
- organise their time to complete and hand in homework by the due date;
- consult with parents and teachers prior to the due date, if they need assistance;
- try their best with homework.

Teachers:

- set regular homework to help establish a home study routine;
- ensure that homework instructions and expectations are clearly written;
- set homework that can be completed in a time frame suitable to that particular level;
- set homework that is varied and relevant, catering to different abilities and learning styles;
- check and acknowledge completed homework;
- follow up when concerns are raised by parents or students.

Parents:

- provide encouragement, assistance and support without completing tasks;
- listen to students read or read to them, as appropriate;
- provide a suitable place for work;
- assist students to manage their time around extra curricula activities;
- inform the teacher if your child has issues with the homework demands.

Guidelines for Homework

Prep:

- students are required to be engaged in reading each night;
- students are expected to read and write the M100 words and weekly complete their Sound/Handwriting Book.

Year 1/2:

- students are required to be engaged in reading each night;
- students will regularly have spelling to learn;
- students may be expected to complete a task related to the class curriculum;

Year 3/4:

- homework will normally be given on a weekly basis;
- students are expected to read for 15-20 minutes and practise number facts each school night;
- work may also include spelling, maths revision and tasks related to the Integrated unit and/or R.E. topic.

Year 5/6:

- homework may be given on either a weekly or fortnightly basis;
- students are expected to read for 20 minutes each school night;
- work may also include spelling, maths revision and tasks related to the Integrated unit and/or R.E. topic;
- at times, students may be expected to complete work on a project related to the class focus topic;
- written homework should not take any longer than two hours spread across the week;
- students may be required to complete unfinished class work at home.