

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Bundaberg

Homework Policy

April 2024 for review April 2025

Policy Statement

The purpose of homework is to provide an opportunity for families to share in their child's spiritual, physical, emotional, social and academic development. Homework should be a positive experience for students, parents and teachers. It should allow parents to engage in the learning process with their child in order to demonstrate a positive attitude to learning. It assists in strengthening partnerships between parents/caregivers and the school and is designed to support each child in developing the attributes of a lifelong learner. Homework needs to be voluntary, not mandatory. Emeritus Professor of Education, John Hattie, recently stated, "The evidence is pretty clear that homework in Primary School has a very low to zero effect."

Definition

This document stipulates the school's policy for setting homework and expectations regarding homework for different year levels. Our homework policy ensures that the amount of homework is balanced across all learning areas to allow sufficient time for family, recreation and community and cultural activities; therefore, students will not be disadvantaged by the lack of access to resources such as computers and the internet outside school.

Homework Guidelines

Year Level	Hours per week/ Monday to Friday
Prep	Generally, students will not be set homework other than daily reading/ 15mins per day
Years 1, 2 and 3	Up to but generally not more than 1 and a half hrs per week/ 20mins per day
Years 4 and 5	Up to but generally not more than 2-3 hrs per week/ 25mins to 35mins per day
Year 6	Up to but generally not more than 3-4 hours per week/ 35mins to 45mins per day.

Description

It is recommended that when homework is assigned it can take many forms including but not limited to:

- Reading (of all the elements, this should be non-negotiable and completed always)
- Handouts/computer-based activities
- Revising and studying
- Completion and extension of class work, projects, and research

Implementation Issues

Responsibilities

Teachers can/may:

- Set homework-learning tasks on a regular basis but within a flexible timeframe.
- Select tasks that are varied, challenging, and directly related to class work.
- Check homework regularly and provide positive recognition of the efforts of students.
- Explicitly teach strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and provide opportunities for practice through home-learning activities.
- Not carry out punitive measures for aspects of homework incomplete.

Students can/may:

- Accept responsibility for the completion of tasks within set time frames.
- Organise their time to manage the various activities they engage in regularly.
- Seek assistance when difficulties arise.

Parents can/may:

- Encourage children to take responsibility for their learning.
- Encourage children to organise their time.
- Help them to balance the amount of time spent completing home learning tasks, screen time, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities.
- Communicate with their child's teacher any concerns about the nature of home learning tasks or their child's approach to the learning.

How can parents further assist their children with their homework?

An environment clear of distractions and routine are essential factors in building your child's capacity in becoming an independent learner.

- Where possible, try to establish a predictable routine to complete homework.
- Encourage children to work reasonably quickly and efficiently. Do not let children work beyond the maximum time limits.
- When helping, keep your explanations simple and practical. If possible, express encouragement and pride for your child having a go.
- If a task cannot be satisfactorily completed in the set time, stop your child working, and write a note of explanation for your child's teacher. Do not engage in an altercation or argument.