



# ST. COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Homework Policy

### **Rationale**

Homework set by the class teacher will act as a positive supplement to the school learning process. It will not be used as an opportunity to teach new learning experiences but rather concentrate on reinforcing basic skills and concepts covered in class.

### **Guidelines**

In order for homework to be successful, ongoing parental commitment to supervision of homework is vital. Parents need to assist children in developing sound study habits by providing a suitable physical environment free from distractions and setting up a regular homework routine. A reasonable level of parental assistance to complete independent learning tasks is encouraged. If a child is unable to complete the set work within the time allocated, parents are asked to sign off in the homework diary and may choose to contact the teacher to discuss any concern.

Homework should provide a time for parents to positively reinforce and encourage their child's efforts. Parents and teachers need to be aware of the 'stress' that a child may develop due to extra curricula activities (e.g. sport, dance lessons, music etc) and therefore, both teachers and parents need to be flexible with time allocation of homework tasks. Homework may be given Monday to Thursday with some class teachers choosing to set "Family Homework" which can be included in the contract or may be given over a weekend. Family homework may include recreational, cultural, and family activities (such as doing chores at home, attending a local sporting match, playing a board game, celebrating a special time of the year, etc).

### **Early Years and Pre-Primary:**

In the Kindergarten and Pre-Primary classes homework is informal with the emphasis on it being fun and enjoyable, for example:

- Parents may be asked to help their child prepare what they will say for news
- Children may be asked to look for items around the home that begin with a given sound
- Parents are asked to share a book with their child each night. PP students have the opportunity to take a reading book home each week from Semester Two.

### **Junior School – Year One and Two**

There is an expectation that in Years 1 and 2. Oral Reading will be completed Monday-Thursday for five to ten minutes depending on the age and need of the child.

It would be appropriate for the students in Year One to practice a small list of sight words to help foster the development of their reading skills. The practice of learning spelling words is appropriate for Years One and Two, a variety of activities may be used to facilitate this. The practice of times tables is also encouraged for Year Two.

Other homework activities may include, but are not restricted to, Maths and English. Written homework should not exceed twenty minutes at this level and only from Monday – Thursday.

## **Middle/Upper School – Years Three to Six**

The homework in these classes may consist of activities that the children can complete during the week at their own pace. This would encourage the development of time management skills. The activities could include such things as mental maths, spelling activities and reading. It may also include the completion, revision or consolidation of other activities that have been started in class with the teacher. All homework should be recorded in the student's diary.

Parents are expected to check the homework and sign the diary upon completion of homework.

It is expected that students in Years Three should take twenty minutes, Years Four & Five thirty minutes and Year Six approximately forty minutes Monday - Thursday to complete these activities.

Depending on the needs of the child along with extra-curricular activities, the duration of homework time may vary within a week. **Parental communication with the teacher is essential.**

**Review Date: 2022**