

ST MARK'S SCHOOL

HOMework POLICY



Rationale

At *St Mark's* we acknowledge the importance of family time in an increasingly complex and busy world. Our homework policy aims to support equitable practices whilst recognising the diversity of families in our school community.

The purpose of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

Guidelines

As we are a *Visible Learning* school, we follow the research of John Hattie. Hattie states that, "Homework in which there is no active involvement by the teacher does not contribute to student learning". (p236, *Visible Learning by John Hattie, 2009*) He also makes reference to the amount of time which should be spent on homework. "The positive effects of homework were negatively related to the duration of the homework treatment. Shorter is better". (p234, *Visible Learning by John Hattie, 2009*)

Time

The amount of time taken to do homework will vary according to individual capabilities and family circumstances. The time frame for completion of homework activities will be flexible, taking into account family routines and timetables. As homework is not intended to be an onerous or stressful activity we have outlined a homework guide.

Early Years – Prep to Year 2	Middle Years – Years 3 & 4	Upper Years – Years 5 & 6
In the Prep Year , generally students will not be set homework. In Years 1 and 2 , homework should include reading (or looking at picture books and talking about it) and sight words.	In Years 3 and 4 , homework should include reading, spelling and number facts. It should take no longer than 1 hour per week.	In Years 5 & 6 homework should include reading, spelling and number facts. It should take no longer than 2 hours per week.

Homework Club

Each Tuesday students are given the opportunity to attend "Homework Club" where teachers are available to assist students with their homework. At the beginning of each term parents are invited to enrol their child into Homework Club. Limited places are available.

Roles and responsibilities

Teachers will:

- ➡ *Clearly communicate* the purpose, benefits and expectations for homework to parents/caregivers and students *discussing* any concerns that arise
- ➡ *Ensure* the homework procedure is *implemented* and *monitored* by teachers
- ➡ *Correct* the work done
- ➡ *Provide opportunities* for students to discuss any difficulties they are experiencing with homework
- ➡ *Ensure* that homework tasks are based on what has been taught

Parent/Caregivers will:

- ➡ Be *aware* of and *support* the school's homework procedure, *discussing* with the teacher, when required, any concerns or stressors
- ➡ *Discuss* homework activities and expectations with their children, *encouraging* them to *organise* their time *responsibly*
- ➡ *Actively* encourage their children to engage in reading and/or discussing picture books each day

Students will:

- ➡ *Know* the school's homework procedure
- ➡ *Be responsible* for the *completion* of homework tasks
- ➡ *Complete* and *present* homework on time
- ➡ *Discuss* any homework difficulties with teacher/s and parent/s or caregiver/s
- ➡ *Read* each day