

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework is an important part of a child's learning and needs to be meaningful and valued by all parties (i.e. students, teachers & parents. It is designed to reinforce the valuable skills that students are learning in class.) Homework provides another opportunity for students to show personal responsibility for their organisational, learning and study skills. It also offers parents with opportunities to talk about their child's learning.

A balanced life for our students may involve participation in extra-curricular activities, activities with families and homework.

Purpose:

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, we aim to ensure that students will:

- demonstrate an awareness of their personal qualities and the factors that contribute to bouncing back after a setback;
- develop empathy for and understanding of others;
- understand how relationships are developed;
- use interpersonal skills to establish and maintain relationships;
- recognise, understand and gauge the expression of emotions;
- work effectively in teams;
- develop strategies to manage challenging situations effectively;
- demonstrate an awareness of and respect for cultural diversity within the community;
- reflect on how our experiences influence attitudes, values and beliefs;
- develop logical, strategic, flexible and creative thinking;
- analyse and evaluate ethical issues with a Catholic lens;
- develop their open-mindedness and reasonableness.

Implementation:

As a General Guide:

Prep: Weekly approximate time - 40 minutes

Year 1 and 2: Weekly approximate time - 60 minutes

Year 3 and 4: Weekly approximate time - 100 minutes

Year 5 and 6: Weekly approximate time - 180 minutes

<p>Prep</p> <p>The homework allocated in Year Prep is appropriate to the student's skill level and age. The following tasks will form part of the homework given to students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Take Home Books 3 times a week. Parents record nightly reading in Reading Log Book *Homework pouch with a scrapbook with activities linked to classroom learning *Learning Apps as recommended by teachers, e.g. Studyladder, Reading Eggs 	<p>Years One and Two</p> <p>The homework allocated in Years One and Two is appropriate to the student's skill level and age. The following tasks will form part of the homework given to students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Take Home books daily. Parents record nightly reading in Reading Log Book *Weekly words to learn *Oral Counting/automatic response building linked to Mathematics being taught *At times, tasks related to the Inquiry/Religious Education unit may be set
<p>Years Three and Four</p> <p>The homework allocated in Years Three and Four is appropriate to the student's skill level and age. The following tasks will form part of the homework given to students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *A minimum of one hour of reading per week (e.g. 15 minutes 4 times a week) reading and recorded in the student diary. Students are encouraged to read a wide range of texts. *Mathematics practise and revision tasks which may be worksheets or online activities *At times, tasks related to the Inquiry/Religious Education unit may be set 	<p>Years Five and Six</p> <p>The homework allocated in Years Five and Six is appropriate to the student's skill level and age. The following tasks will form part of the homework given to students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A minimum of two hours of reading per week, recorded in the student diary, e.g. <i>On Monday: Harry Potter</i>, Pg. 17-30, 25 minutes. Students are encouraged to read a wide range of texts. *Other reading material may be set, e.g. Literature Circle novel to prepare for class task *Mathematics practise and revision tasks which may be worksheets or online activities

N.B. It is also expected that any unfinished work that should have been completed during class time be completed for homework.	*At times, tasks related to the Inquiry/Religious Education unit may be set N.B. It is also expected that any unfinished work that should have been completed during class time be completed for homework.
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Please note: Where a student is part of the Intervention Program in Mathematics or English, take home tasks take precedent over classroom tasks set in these curriculum areas.

Expectations Of The Student

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, students need to:

- be aware of the importance of homework in their learning journey
- complete set homework to the best of their ability and to a high standard
- In Years 3-6 recognise the importance of diaries as a way of tracking homework and other events in order to balance activities through the school week
- communicate with the teacher before the due date if they are encountering any difficulties with the homework task

It is an expectation that all children complete set homework to the best of their ability. If homework is not completed and there is no parental communication with the school, this will be followed up by the classroom teacher. As a general rule:

1. A warning will be given the first time homework is not completed without communication from parent/guardian.
2. A student will need to complete their homework during recess and/or lunchtime.
3. If a student continually does not complete homework and there is no communication from parent/guardian, the student's parents/guardian will be contacted and a meeting will be held to establish a Homework Learning plan for going forward.

Expectations Of The School/Teacher

Teachers will be responsible for setting homework tasks for the class.

Prep

- Reading every night
- Revision of concepts covered in class

Years One and Two

- Reading every night
- Revision of work covered within class
- Practise Spelling words
- Oral Counting, and/or automatic response of number facts

Years Three and Four

- Reading for a minimum of 1 hour a week
- Achievable and independent tasks
- Clear directions
- A follow up discussion at school about the completion of homework and check that the homework is signed and diary dated
- To monitor that the homework has been completed and to ensure it is corrected promptly as a form of feedback to the student/family

Years Five and Six

- Reading every night
- That directions to complete a task will be clear
- Applying and evaluating skills and strategies taught in class
- Achievable and independent tasks
- A follow up discussion at school about the completion of homework and check that the homework is signed and diary dated
- To monitor that the homework has been completed and to ensure it is corrected promptly as a form of feedback to the student/family

Expectations Of The Home/Parent

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, we encourage all parents to participate in their children's learning by working in partnership with us on homework tasks.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Provide a suitable quiet place, without distractions, for their child to work e.g. away from TV & providing basic materials such as pen, paper, dictionary, etc.
- Establish and maintain routines by finding a regular time to complete homework each week
- Check and monitor children's understanding of homework.
- Remind children to return homework by **due date** and sign if required.
- **In Years Prep to Two:** Reading entries are to be recorded in a Reading Log Book and signed off by a parent/guardian.
- **In Years Three to Six:** Reading entries are to be recorded in the school diary and signed off by a parent/guardian.
- Ensure homework is completed to the best of the child's ability.
- Show an interest in your child's learning by talking about school and activities they have completed.
- Continue to praise your child's efforts.
- Model completing tasks like reading, writing, as children learn by positive role modelling.
- If there is a legitimate reason for homework not being completed, a short explanation in an email, note or the school diary is requested.
- When a child is regularly experiencing difficulty with their work please contact the classroom teacher so that tasks can be modified accordingly.

Holiday Homework

St Francis Xavier Primary School does not provide homework during the Term Breaks, nor will homework be provided for students who go away on Family Holidays during the school term.

Evaluation:

This policy will be by staff revisited yearly.