

St Bernard's Homework Policy

Purpose

The policy sets out clear guidelines and expectations regarding homework at St Bernard's. Homework links school and home as places of learning. It refers to the activities assigned by teachers to be completed by students outside of school hours. Homework is focused on learning and provides students with opportunities to prepare for, consolidate and extend their learning.

Definitions

Homework may take many forms. These include, but are not limited to:

Preparation for learning: activities which engage students in investigation and discussion. Examples include shared reading, measuring ingredients, watching targeted programs and completing preliminary research.

Consolidation of learning: activities which allow students the opportunity to practice new skills and remember new concepts. Examples include researching use of learned concepts in the real world and constructing texts.

Extension of learning: activities which allow students to apply their learning to new and expanded contexts. Examples include research and project work.

Policy

Each school should develop a Homework Policy which provides clear guidelines for teachers, students and parents/carers. This policy supports teachers to allocate homework which:

- promotes student learning
- is appropriate for each student's age and ability
- supports a balance between school and other commitments including family time, sport and work
- takes into account access to resources to ensure that no student is disadvantaged.

Procedures

At St Bernard's School homework:

- provides a method of communication between school and home
- promotes the home school partnership
- is based on current research
- marks will not be included in a student's end of semester report
- is an element of the teaching and learning process, assisting students to consolidate work taught in class and develop sound study habits
- will not be assigned in Week 7 which is Family Week
- will have clear expectations that will be communicated to parents through curriculum notes and at Introductory Meetings held at the beginning of the school year
- should consist of reading daily.

Teachers will:

- Provide relevant tasks that link to work covered in class
- Inform parents on current research on homework
- Provide a book for students to read at home and reading strategies to support parents with reading

- Clearly communicate clear expectations and timeframes to students and parents
- Differentiate according to ability
- Provide homework tasks based on the curriculum
- Be firm, but flexible in the expectation that homework be completed with no child being kept in for incomplete homework.

Students will:

- Accept responsibility for the completion of homework and finish homework tasks to the best of their ability
- Seek assistance if required
- Commit to reading every night and select books that they enjoy for reading

Parents will:

- Encourage their child/ren to complete homework
- Support their child in homework and provide a quiet and comfortable environment in which to work
- Contact the class teacher immediately if their child/ren is having difficulty completing homework tasks
- Commit to the reading routine
- Share reading time with their child/ren
- Sign off on the reading log each night/week

Suggested times for Homework:

Kindergarten to Year 2

- Every child should read for 10 minutes daily. This may include reading to an adult, reading with an adult or being read to by an adult.
- Additional tasks linked to units of inquiry may be set at times. For example, bring in a photo that relates to a topic being studied in class.
- Children will also have the option to complete tasks on Study ladder and/or Reading Eggs.

Years 3 and 4

- Every child should read for 10 minutes daily.
- Written homework that compliments work already taught in class should not exceed 15 minutes per week.
- Students in Year 3 will also have the option of Study ladder and reading express.

Years 5 and 6

- Every child should read for 20 minutes daily.
- Written homework that compliments work already taught in class should not exceed 30 minutes per week.
- Additional open ended tasks linked to units of inquiry may be set at times.