



St Andrew's Homework Policy

Preamble

Homework is defined as the tasks given to students by their teachers to be completed outside of usual lessons.

This Homework Policy takes into account a number of factors:

- Community expectations about homework
- Research regarding homework outlines the quality of homework is more important than the quantity
- Schools are best placed to make decisions about homework in consultation with their communities.

The St Andrew's Homework Policy has been reviewed and developed with key stakeholders including: teachers, students, the School Leadership Team and the Education Board.

Homework has been extensively researched. Literature reviews in relation to homework outline that there is little evidence that homework improves academic performance for primary age students, however, it could have benefits, such as increasing parental involvement.

As part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum, homework is one way of supporting and fostering life-long learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, (Department of Education, Victoria).

This policy takes into consideration the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, cultural pursuits, sport and recreation. (Department of Education, Victoria)

Rationale

At St Andrew's School we believe:

- Homework can provide a transitional role in preparing students for secondary school.
- Homework should provide opportunities to reinforce and consolidate classroom learning, develop skills and establish disciplined behaviours and routines, to develop as lifelong learners and promote positive family communication and engagement in learning.
- There is strong evidence that homework has little impact on academic performance.

Aims

The aims of homework at St Andrew's School are:

- to strengthen home-school partnerships and reaffirm the role of parents and guardians as partners in education;
- to foster a love and enjoyment of reading;
- to complement and reinforce classroom learning
- to develop self regulation processes such as goal setting, self-reflection and time management;
- fostering lifelong learning, study habits, concentration, discipline and organisational skills
- provide an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning

Implementation

At St Andrew's School we believe that homework is useful when:

- Reading is the major focus
- Parents engage meaningfully in reading with their child each day
- Homework reinforces and/or consolidates classroom teaching and learning
- Takes into consideration individual learning styles, abilities and rates of learning
- Is balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- Homework is developmentally age appropriate
- Timely feedback is provided

Roles and Responsibilities

The School Leadership Team will support by:

- Developing a school homework policy, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, particularly teachers, students and the Education Board
- Distribute the school homework policy to staff, students, parents and guardians, at the time of enrolment, at the commencement of each school year through the Parent and Teacher Handbooks and on the School Website
- Ensure that reading for enjoyment is a primary focus of homework
- Ensure that homework expectations align with the school's Homework Policy and effectively implemented throughout the school
- Facilitate and develop communication and partnerships between home-school in relation to homework.

Teacher's responsibilities in relation to homework are to:

- Ensure that homework expectations align with the school's homework policy
- Ensure homework is consistent within levels across the school
- Ensure reading is the primary focus of homework
- Ensure and promote positive reading experiences for students
- Demonstrate and set expectations on how to use reading diaries, communicate this to parents at the commencement of each year in the form of a letter
- Provide regular opportunities for students to change their readers or access the library to select texts
- Monitor and sign reading diaries weekly
- Monitor and provide relevant and timely feedback in relation to homework tasks
- Provide feedback to parents in relation to homework, including its completion
- Design homework as a level to ensure consistency across classes

Student's responsibilities in relation to homework are to:

- Read for the prescribed amount of time each night and record in their diary
- Hand in reading diaries and homework each week for teacher signing
- Accept responsibility for nightly reading
- Accept responsibility for the completion of homework tasks
- Seek parent/teacher support when difficulties arise
- Organise and manage time to ensure completion of homework tasks
- Where appropriate use technology in agreement with School User Policy

Parents and guardians responsibilities in relation to homework are to:

- Develop a positive and productive attitude to homework
- Support development of time management skills
- Reading to or with your child, listen to their reading and discussing texts with your child on a nightly basis
- Signing reading diaries
- Celebrate your child's learning and their attempts at their homework
- Encourage quality over quantity of homework
- Communicate with your child's teacher any concerns or difficulties in relation to homework
- Link homework and learning to other life experiences, family, cultural, sport, community groups

St Andrew's Homework Expectations

	Reading	Other	Allocated Time
Prep	Nightly reading which may include being read to, with parents/guardians. Reading aloud and sharing stories borrowed. Reading of take home books.		10 minutes
Levels 1 & 2	Nightly reading which may include being read to, with parents/guardians. Reading aloud and sharing stories borrowed. Independent reading of readers or books borrowed from the library.		10-15 minutes
Levels 3 & 4	Nightly reading which may include being read to, with parents/guardians. Reading aloud and sharing stories borrowed. Independent reading of readers or books borrowed from the library.	Weekly homework tasks presented from two curriculum areas on a rotational basis. Eg Week 1 Literacy & RE Week 2 Maths & Inquiry	15-20 minutes reading 10-15 minutes other task
Levels 5 & 6	Nightly independent reading which may include the use of audio texts and preparation for Literature Circles.	Weekly homework tasks presented from two curriculum areas on a rotational basis. Eg Week 1 Literacy & RE Week 2 Maths & Inquiry	20 minutes reading 10-15 minutes other task
<p>All students are expected to read nightly and record their reading in a diary. Parents and guardians are required to monitor and sign off on nightly reading.</p> <p>If a student has worked for the allocated time on other tasks they are to conclude their homework after such time and continue on their next block of homework. Students are not required to complete homework tasks over extended periods of time.</p>			

References:

Department of Education Victoria - Homework Guidelines

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx>

Evidence Behind Home Learning Concepts

<https://evidenceforlearning.org.au/resources-for-parents/evidence/>

The Case For & Against Homework - Robert J Marzano & Debra J Pickering

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228819533_Special_topicThe_case_for_and_against_homework

