

ST CLARE OF ASSISI PRIMARY SCHOOL



HOMework POLICY

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St Clare of Assisi Primary School adheres to the Catholic Education Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn's Policy. This policy can be accessed via the following link:

<https://intranet.cg.catholic.edu.au/formandpolicies/layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/formandpolicies/Lists/Policies%202015/Attachments/5/Homework%20Policy.pdf&action=default>

St Clare of Assisi Primary School implements this policy through the following procedures:

Purpose

This policy outlines expectations and procedures for homework at St Clare of Assisi Primary School. 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.

Policy Principles

At St Clare of Assisi Primary School, we believe homework should:

- promote the joy of reading;
- balance a range of educational, recreational, family and cultural activities;
- link to class work and an individual student's learning goals;
- develop students' responsibility and self-discipline; and
- provide suggestions for relevant, interesting and enjoyable experiences.

At St Clare of Assisi Catholic Primary School, we recognise parents are partners in their children's learning. We support Homework experiences that:

- foster positive family interactions;
- can be shared, reflected on and celebrated with family; and
- provide an opportunity for families to support and encourage children's school 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.

Procedure

This policy acknowledges that students engage in rich learning experiences with their families, in particular, guided 'play'. Parent Information Nights are offered by the school to educate parents on current teaching practice so they can better help their child at home.

To support homework, teachers provide age appropriate materials that may come in the form of a Homework Grid, Homework Logs, Alphabet Books and/or lists of activities that students can complete relating to a learning focus.

Teachers encourage students to:

- read at least four nights a week, using a Home Reading Journal;
- work towards achieving Learning Goals; and
- practise Mathematics and English skills.

The Teacher's role is to:

- discuss expectations about homework with parents;
- provide interesting and challenging homework appropriate for the varying abilities in the class;
- provide a balance of open ended, creative and revision activities;
- give clear, explicit instructions and feedback to students and parents;
- be firm, but flexible in the expectation that home learning be completed;
- communicate with parents regarding any concerns with home learning; and
- teach the necessary research and other skills to enable students to complete home learning tasks.

The Parent's role is to:

- provide an environment for the child where supervision, encouragement and some assistance are given;
- respect the child's knowledge and skills;
- communicate with the teacher regarding any concerns about homework; and
- provide a written explanation when homework is not completed.

The Student's role is to:

- accept responsibility for the completion of home learning, and finish tasks to the best of his/her ability;
- ask for assistance from teacher and family if necessary; and
- ensure the work is handed in for marking.

Homework Grid

A Homework Grid involves a series of compulsory and optional activities to be completed over a 2 week period. **Weeks 1/2, 3/4, 5/6 and 8/9. Weeks 7 and 10 are usually Homework free.**

A Homework Grid:

- Acknowledges modern families (busy lifestyles, after school activities, sedentary nature of children, changes in family structure, information explosion, etc)
- Develops organisational skills by allowing students to learn how to manage their time to complete home learning tasks in their already busy lives;
- Encourages positive family interactions and enables students to recognise their home responsibilities;
- Allows students to have some choice in their home learning activities.

The Homework Grid contains:

- Opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning;
- Compulsory activities could include Mathematics, English, Religion, Integrated Unit;
- Optional activities such as physical activity, art, research, projects, etc.

In addition:

- Students will still be expected to complete spelling and their reading journal each night;
- All activities should be able to be completed independently;
- Students may have compulsory activities to complete and then a certain number of other activities to choose from;
- Activities will vary fortnight to fortnight depending on need.
- Teachers will vary the amount of activities completed depending on the needs of the student;
- Parents are expected to sign the Grid each fortnight; and
- Students not completing homework will receive a reminder note to send home to their parents.

Target times each night:

Year 1	15 minutes
Year 2	20 minutes
Year 3 /4	30 minutes
Year 5 / 6	45 minutes

Consequences

There are consequences if homework is incomplete or not submitted on time (without a note from parents). The consequences are as follows:

- **First instance - verbal warning**
- **Second instance - note home to parents**
- **Third instance - lunchtime timeout**

Considerations

Homework should:

- be interesting and challenging;
- include formal activities, such as practice and consolidation, writing tasks, spelling activities, reading tasks and research assignments;
- include informal activities, such as reading for enjoyment, discussion, art & craft and problem solving;
- include preparation activities, such as collecting resources and materials for later lessons;
- be negotiated with the students and sometimes parents;
- always be checked or marked;
- be handed out with some direction to students or parents as to what is expected; and
- where applicable be set on a contract basis where students have to plan their time.

Related School Policies

Communication
Parent Code of Conduct

Related CE Policies

Homework

POLICY DATES			
Formulated	2014	Implemented	2015
Reviewed	2016	Next Review Date	2020



Year _ Homework

Term:

Weeks:

Date Due:

You must **complete ALL of the activities** on your homework sheet. You must read for at least 15 minutes each night. Please complete in your Homework Book.

Enrichment Activities (Optional activities for parents/students)	Notes/Comments	
	Parent Signature: _____	