St Paul Apostle South School

Endeavour Hills

One Family

# Homework Policy

# St Paul Apostle South School

## Homework Policy

### Rationale:

At St. Paul Apostle South school, we endeavour to work in partnership with parents in the education of the whole child. We also believe in developing the children into active and responsible citizens. Therefore, we provide home learning opportunities for the children to complete, which will enable parents to understand the children and their learning as well as encourage them to take responsibility for their own development.

To **Provide** school experiences which:

- reflects our Catholic tradition
- are sound educationally
- develop skills, values and attitudes and encourage creativity
- give opportunity for all to grow spiritually, emotionally, physically and intellectually towards their best selves

To **Work** in partnership with parents by:

- enriching relationships and recognizing different attitudes and values in the community
- recognising the rights and responsibilities of parents in the education of their children
- providing the opportunity for discussion with the classroom teacher to modify homework based on the individual needs of the student.

### Purpose of Homework

- To develop study skills
- To build parent/school partnerships
- To have opportunities to practise learning

### Guidelines:

School councils are responsible for developing and publishing a homework policy in partnership with the principal and teachers and after consulting with parents and students. The school-level homework policy should be consistent with these Homework Guidelines.

### Schools should:

- advise parents of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the homework policy
- follow up with parents if a student regularly fails to complete homework
- encourage the school to work with parents/guardians to establish good homework patterns from early primary school
- ensure that upper primary and secondary school students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.
- **Note:** These Homework Guidelines have been developed by the Department of Education with the assistance of parents, teachers and students in Victorian primary and secondary schools. The Guidelines provide a framework to help schools engage their communities when reviewing their existing homework policies.

## Successful practice

### Early Years (Prep – 4)

- Prep to Year 4 homework will enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials and mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or older siblings. This will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during vacations.

### Middle Years (Years 5 – 9)

- Years 5 to 6 homework should include daily independent reading. It will include extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research. This will generally range from 30 – 45 minutes a day at Year 5 to 6.

***Homework should*:**

- be appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- be interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open ended
- be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

### Types of homework that meet these requirements include:

**Practice exercises** — providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics – memorisation of tables
- practising spelling words
- practising words or phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English
- reading for pleasure
- writing essays and other creative tasks
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising physical education skills.

**Preparatory homework** — providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:

- reading background material for History
- reading English texts for class discussion
- researching topics for class work
- collecting newspaper articles
- revising information about a current topic.

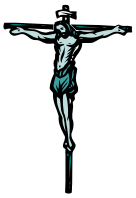
**Extension assignments** — encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:

- writing a book review
- making or designing an art work
- completing science investigation exercises
- researching local news
- finding material on the Internet
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

**HOMEWORK GRID** *(ref. Ian Lillico)*

The use of the homework grid is a way of presenting homework – it is up to the teacher as to how it is set up. The grid can be anywhere from **4 to 10 or more squares depending upon the level of the children**. It is to be given out each week or fortnight and must include daily reading, as well as some form of physical activities and housework as well as an RE component.

# ST PAUL APOSTLE SOUTH SCHOOL HOMEWORK GRID – CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

| RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SPIRITUAL | ENGLISH | MATHEMATICS |
|---|---|---|
| • Talk to God – in the morning, evening<br>• Complete any religious Education tasks<br>• Research topics – ask mum, dad, family etc.<br>  <br>• Attend mass,<br>• visit the Church<br>• Show someone you care<br>• Scripture activity/research<br>• Share an activity in To Know , Worship and Love text | • Read each night<br>• Practise Spelling<br>• Dictionary/Thesaurus work<br>• Word Study<br>• Work on writing contract<br>• Finish off work from class<br>• Plan a speech<br> | • Practise timetables<br>• Explore number<br>• Read a map<br>• Cooking – measuring – Weighing – talking about<br>• Water play – measuring- capacity, volume |
| **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY** | **HOUSEWORK** | **CULTURAL –ART/MUSIC PRACTICE** |
| • Play in backyard e.g. cricket, sandpit, swings, trampoline, water play.<br>• Ride a bike<br>• Take a walk in the park<br>• Go to training<br>• Go to swimming / tennis /karate/lessons etc.<br>• Fly a kite<br>• Attend Active After School Program at school | • Make your bed<br>• Pick up clothes – put in wash if needed or away<br>• Set the table<br>• Pack away toys<br>• Put the bins out<br>• Care for pets<br>• Sweep up in garden<br>• Weed a garden bed<br>• Fold and sort the washing<br>• Help with cooking | • Music lessons<br>• Music practice<br>• Art activity<br>• Listen to favourite music<br>• Attend a performance<br>• Research famous artists/performers |
| **MEDIA ACTIVITIES** | **PLAY A GAME** | **RESEARCH WORK** |
| • Listen to the weather forecast<br>• Read a newspaper for daily news<br>• Watch a particular program and report<br>• Advertisements –what types /audience? etc.<br>• Interactive Online activity<br>• Listen to breakfast radio<br>• Listen to music station | • Play board game with family or friend<br>• Play cards<br>• Play backyard cricket, soccer, footy, basketball<br>• Invite a friend over and play with toys/games<br>• Play outside<br>• | • Inquiry Learning research<br>• Use the internet<br>• Use the online databases<br>• Use and report on Myclasses<br>• Use newspapers or magazines for information<br>• Ask your parents or grandparents for information<br>• Contact local council for info |
| **COMPLETION OF WORK** | **SHOPPING** | **USE COMPUTER for learning** |
| • Finish off any work from school<br> | • Go shopping – to buy, budget, measure, weigh, look for discounts, nutritional information, money handling, costing, estimating, counting, | • Practise touch typing skills<br>• Practise using excel Practise PowerPoint presentations<br>• Explore other tools such as sending emails, receiving emails, google<br>• Saving and organising folders and files etc.<br>• Make a brochure /sign/ invitation on publisher |
| **Parent's Signature**:<br><br>**Comments:** | | |

**Level 1 – 15 - 20 mins  Level 2 – 20 – 30 mins**

**Level 3 - 30 mins  Level 4 - 30 – 45 mins**