



ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

Our Community – Learning Together, Caring Together, Growing Together

HOMWORK POLICY

RATIONALE:

Homework supports students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning. It fosters lifelong learning and effective study habits. It provides an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning encouraged by their parents, caregivers and teachers.

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of St. Michael's Primary School that homework is an important part of the student's learning journey and is set for each student in the school as part of his/her learning program.

PRINCIPLES:

- Regular homework will be set at the discretion of the class teacher within the parameters of this policy.
- Parents will be advised at the beginning of the school year, where practicable, what to expect in relation to homework
- St. Michael's will provide a regular means of communication between parents and the school.
- The school will acknowledge the pressures on children and families and will give every opportunity for children to be supported in completing their homework
- Homework will consist of reading on a daily basis and may include review and extension activities from classroom work.
- Failure to complete homework will have consequences.

PROCEDURES:

- Homework will:
 - be appropriate to the student's skill level and age;
 - be interesting, challenging and open ended where appropriate;
 - be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided;
 - be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum and the needs of the individual child.
- Details of homework expectations will be communicated at Curriculum Information Night and in the newsletter.
- Students in middle and upper grades will use homework books and lower grades will use a reader box for communication.
- There will be clear time frames for completion of homework tasks.

- Changes to homework may be negotiated with a teacher to meet the learning needs of the children in balance with their family life.
- Parents of students who experience difficulty in completing homework consistently will be invited to work with the teachers and the student in developing strategies to achieve completion. Consequences for non-completion of homework will be consistent across the school and may include completion during recreation times.
- All children will be expected to read an average of 4 times per week for up to 15 minutes per session.
- Homework expectations are:
 - **Grades Prep/1/2:** Reading and Spelling/Vocab Building - 10 minutes per night;
 - **Grades 3/4 and 5/6:** A combination of Reading, Spelling and other activities from the full range of curriculum areas presented in a homework matrix or contract which gives students flexibility and choice and allows them to access activities appropriate to their individual needs. These activities will span a 1 week or 2 week time period depending on the tasks involved. Grade 3/4 – 90 minutes per week; grade 5/6 – 120 minutes per week.

REFERENCES

Homework and Practice, <http://www.netc.org/focus/strategies/home.php>

Homework: The Upsides and Downsides, Alanne & Macgregor, 2007

Homework Literature Review, Queensland Government, 2004

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