Types of homework

At St. Anthony’s, homework may take any of several different formats, all of which offer valuable experiences.

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

These are:

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

- consolidation exercise e.g. maths, including memorisation of tables
- practising for mastery e.g. spelling words
- revising information about a current topic
- practising words or phrases learnt in a language other than English
- reading for pleasure
- essay writing

**Preparatory homework** - providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- background reading
- reading e.g. English text for class discussion
- researching topics for a class unit of work
- collecting items e.g. geometric shapes

**Extension assignments** - encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- writing eg. a book review
- making or designing something e.g. an art work
- investigations eg. science, social science
- researching eg. history, local news
- information and retrieval skills eg. using a home computer to find material on the Internet
- monitoring eg. advertising in particular newspapers
Expectations

Teachers can help by:

- ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school’s homework policy
- providing quality homework activities related to classwork
- setting a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the curriculum
- ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them and how their work will be assessed
- giving students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations and extracurricular activities and homework set by other teachers
- marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers
- alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their children’s homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework
- being clear and consistent about consequences for not doing homework.

Parents and caregivers can help by:

- taking an active interest in homework
- ensuring that there is time set aside for homework
- encouraging and supporting students to complete homework
- providing, where possible, a dedicated place for homework and study
- encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events
- assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
- communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their children’s approach to the homework
- alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected
- communicating with teachers in written or verbal form, the reason why their child was not able to complete set homework.
- Being aware of the child’s personal diary and signing this when it is required.
Homework Policy continued:

Students can help by:

- being aware of the importance of homework
- being aware of their school’s homework policy
- completing homework within the given time frame
- alerting parents or caregivers to homework expectations
- seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- showing their homework to their parents or caregivers
- ensuring homework is of a high standard
- organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.

Suggested Time Frames for daily Homework (Monday to Thursday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Learning at Home Tasks</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Min. 5 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Min. 10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Min. 10 minutes</td>
<td>Min. 15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Min. 15 minutes</td>
<td>Min. 20 minutes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


FAITH NIGHTS

Our Faith Nights are held at school and aim to further develop the Faith Journey. As parents, you began your child’s faith journey when you had them baptized. At St Anthony’s school we work with you to nurture and develop your child’s faith.

Parents and children in Prep to Year 2 are invited to attend our “Bible and Pyjama Nights”. The Parish Sacramental Program—First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation—all incorporate Faith Nights to assist both the parents and children to build their relationship with God.