



St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Rationale

At St. Anthony's School, we believe that learning at home is an important part of the learning process and is a valuable part of schooling. Home learning allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. Home learning establishes habits of study, time management, concentration and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their lives. It strengthens home-school links and reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education. Home learning provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children. It also provides opportunities for students to practise reading skills and to develop a love for reading.

Types of home learning

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 home learning 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

Co-curricular Activities- encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

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

Expectations

Teachers can help by:

- ❖ ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's home learning policy
- ❖ providing quality home learning 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 home learning, taking into account, as far as possible, completing home obligations and co-curricular activities and home learning tasks set by other teachers
- ❖ marking home learning promptly and appropriately, maintaining home learning records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers
- ❖ alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their children's home learning and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their home learning
- ❖ being clear and consistent about consequences for not doing home learning tasks.

Parents and caregivers can help by:

- ❖ taking an active interest in home learning tasks
- ❖ ensuring that there is time set aside for home learning
- ❖ encouraging and supporting students to complete home learning
- ❖ providing, where possible, a dedicated place for learning
- ❖ encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events
- ❖ assisting teachers to monitor home learning by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of home learning tasks set
- ❖ communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of home learning and their children's approach to the tasks
- ❖ alerting the school to any domestic or co-curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when home learning is being set or corrected
- ❖ communicating with teachers in written or verbal form, the reason why their child was not able to complete set home learning tasks.

Students can help by:

- ❖ being aware of the importance of home learning
- ❖ being aware of their school's Home Learning Policy
- ❖ completing home learning within the given time frame
- ❖ alerting parents or caregivers to home learning expectations
- ❖ seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- ❖ showing their home learning tasks to their parents or caregivers
- ❖ ensuring home learning is of a high standard
- ❖ organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality home learning tasks within set deadlines.

Suggested Time Frames for daily Homework(Monday to Thursday)

Grade Level	Learning at Home Tasks	Reading
Foundation		Min. 5 minutes
Level 2	Spelling words 10 minutes	Min. 10 minutes
Level 3	Min. 10 minutes	Min. 15 minutes
Level 4	Min. 15 minutes	Min. 20 minutes

Reviewed 2000, 2002, 2006, 2013, 2017