



St Kieran's Catholic School

Homework Guidelines

2018

“To Learn and to Love”

Rationale

St Kieran’s Catholic Primary School recognises the important role of parents and caregivers as partners in the ongoing education of their children, while at the same time recognising the diversity of family life and situations within the school community. Because of this, the school recognises that there is room for flexibility within the guidelines in order to meet the needs of ALL our families.

The St Kieran’s Homework Guidelines:

- acknowledges current educational research and best practice
- allows for students to engage in authentic learning tasks which consolidate skill development and new learning
- recognises the “whole child” and the importance of developing life skills to support academic, social, physical and spiritual growth
- provides for an element of choice

Review Process

The review of the Homework Guidelines was conducted in the second half of the 2018 school year. The consultation process involved staff, parents and students. The staff was presented with professional readings and then took part in a workshop expressing their views on homework. Parents were then invited to complete an online survey with a very high response rate of 193 completed surveys. A summary of the survey responses were shared with the parent community at the Term 3 P&F meeting. The results of the survey and the teachers’ responses were considered by the teaching staff during a staff development day at the beginning of Term 4. A draft was developed on this day which was presented to the St Kieran’s Advisory Council, a small number of parents and teachers before its final presentation to the school community at the Term 4 P&F meeting. The review took into account the research of key educational consultants as well as the considerable work completed by the staff during the previous homework review in 2010.

Purpose

Homework that is purposeful and meaningful assists students in future learning by:

- establishing routines and positive work habits for life-long learning
- consolidating and reinforcing concepts, skills and knowledge taught in the classroom and beyond
- linking academic learning to real life situations allowing students to take more responsibility for their learning

Guidelines

At St Kieran's:

- all students, K-6 are expected to complete homework tasks/activities
- students and parents are aware of what is expected in the completion of homework tasks through the "Class Homework Expectations"
- students are given sufficient time to complete homework tasks, taking into account competing home obligations and situations, as well as extra-curricular activities
- the amount of content and time factor for homework, Kindergarten to Year 6, is based on the developmental needs of individual students at grade and stage levels
- students are given some element of choice and opportunities to complete extra tasks by choosing from a broad range of activities covering a variety of areas, e.g. research, preparing an oral report, science investigation, etc.
- **reading is an overall priority for students Kindergarten to Year 6.**
- The Homework Guidelines is available on the school's webpage at: www.skmvdbb.catholic.edu.au with "Class Homework Expectations" distributed at the commencement of the school year.

Implementation

The St Kieran's homework grid, based on extensive research and developed by Australian educational psychologist Ian Lilico, broadens the definition of homework to include compulsory and extension tasks appropriate to the developmental stages of students in Year 1 to Year 6. Kindergarten focuses solely on reading on their first year of school.

The homework grid recognises the wide range of after school activities, encourages positive family interactions and allows time for students to pursue their own learning as well as consolidate and reinforce concepts taught in the classroom.

Teaching staff at each grade level determine what homework activities are appropriate and purposeful for the students in their care. Homework is distributed and collected in a timeframe determined as appropriate by the class teacher.

Parents are encouraged to support the teaching staff in the implementation of the Homework Guidelines and communicate with the class teacher on any issues or concerns in regard to homework.

Special Circumstances

Under special circumstances where homework causes difficulties or

distress to family life, parents can approach the class teacher to negotiate an adaptation of the homework, or in special cases, an exemption from homework, **except for reading**. (Appendix A).

In the event of a special family occasion, where homework will be difficult to complete, parents may request in writing an exemption of homework for that period from the classroom teacher.

Children holidaying during the school term will not be provided with additional homework but may decide to keep a journal or scrapbook of their travel adventure.

Guidelines

Grade	Reading	Other Tasks
Kindergarten	10-15 minutes per night	-
Yrs 1 & 2	10-20 minutes per night	40 minutes per week
Yrs 3 & 4	20+ minutes per night	1 hour per week
Yrs 5 & 6	20+ minutes per night	1½—2 hours per week

Policy / Guidelines written: 2010

Date for Review: 2015

Policy Reviewed: Term 4, 2018

Date for Review: 2021

References:

1. Department of Education and Communities (2012) *Homework Policy: Guidelines* NSW DEC
2. Hattie, J. (2009) *Visible Learning; A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement*. Routledge
3. Horsley, M. and Walker, R. (2013) *Reforming Homework; Practices, Learning and Policy*. Palgrave Macmillan
4. Protheroe, N. (2009) *Good Homework Policy* www.naesp.org/principal

Appendix A – Exemption request from Homework



Under special circumstances where homework causes difficulties or distress to family life, parents can approach the class teacher to negotiate an adaptation of the homework, or in special cases, an exemption from homework, **except for reading**, for an agreed period.

An exemption from homework will be considered for students who are diagnosed with a learning difficulty/disability that affects completing learning tasks at home independently.

I request an exemption from homework for my child _____.
I have discussed the circumstances with the class teacher in consultation with the Learning Support Teacher and Principal.

Agreed period of time: from _____ to _____.

I understand that reading at home remains an expectation. I will liaise with the class teacher and/or Learning Support Teacher of any change in circumstances in the future.

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Principal's Name: _____

Principal's Signature: _____

Date: _____