



St Kieran's Catholic School

Homework Guidelines

2025

"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 to meet the needs of all our families.

The St Kieran's Homework Guidelines:

- acknowledges current educational research and best practice
- allows 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

The Homework Guidelines document is available on the school's webpage at: www.skmvdbb.catholic.edu.au

Review Process

The review of the Homework Guidelines was conducted in the first half of the 2025 school year. The consultation process involved staff, parents and students. The staff reviewed the existing 2018 guidelines and took part in a workshop expressing their views. Parents were invited to complete an online survey (42 responses). A summary of the responses was shared with parents at the Term 1 SAT meeting and with staff at a Professional Learning meeting in Term 2. A student survey was conducted with the SRC and Year 6 Wellbeing Team. Responses from all these sources were taken into consideration when making amendments to the 2018 Guidelines. The review considered the research around current best practice, as well as the considerable work completed by the staff during the previous homework reviews in 2010 and 2018.

Purpose

Homework that is purposeful and meaningful assists students in 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:

- reading at home is an expectation for *all students* in Kindergarten to Year 6. This is **in addition to** homework tasks set by the class teacher.
- all students, 1-6 are encouraged to complete homework tasks/activities
- parents are made aware of what is expected in the completion of homework tasks at the Parent Information Evening
- students are given sufficient time to complete homework tasks, to account for competing home obligations and extra-curricular activities
- the amount of content and time frames set for homework 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 range of activities covering a variety of Key Learning Areas, e.g. research, preparing an oral report, science investigation, etc.

Implementation

The 2025 review recognises that homework across the stages appears different due to differing educational needs.

The 'homework grid', as developed in the 2018 Guidelines, will continue to be used in Year 1 to Year 4. The grid includes compulsory and optional and/or extension tasks appropriate to the developmental stages of students while providing opportunities for choice and challenge.

To prepare students for high school, homework in Stage 3 may include a grid, in addition to extra sustained project work and/or completion of daily tasks. These tasks are recorded in the students' diaries and published on the online classroom platform.

Homework in Kindergarten focuses solely on letter/sound and high frequency word recognition followed by reading.

These homework procedures recognise the wide range of after-school activities, encourage positive family interactions, and allow time for students to pursue their own learning. At the same time, they consolidate and reinforce concepts taught in the classroom and prepare students for future learning environments.

Teaching staff at each grade level determine what homework activities are appropriate and purposeful for the students. Homework is distributed and collected within 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 regarding homework.

Recommended Times for Homework

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

Exemption from Homework

Under exceptional circumstances, where homework causes difficulties to family life, or where students are completing homework from other specialists such as speech pathologists, occupational therapists or psychologists, parents can negotiate an adaptation to, or exemption from, school-based homework. In such cases, parents are to communicate directly with the classroom teacher. *Note: this does not include completion of additional homework from private tutors or tutoring schools.*

Travel

Children holidaying during the school term will **not** be provided with additional homework or classwork. Parents may decide to have their child keep a journal or scrapbook of their travel.

Guidelines Written: 2010/2018

Guidelines Reviewed: 2025

Date for next Review: 2028