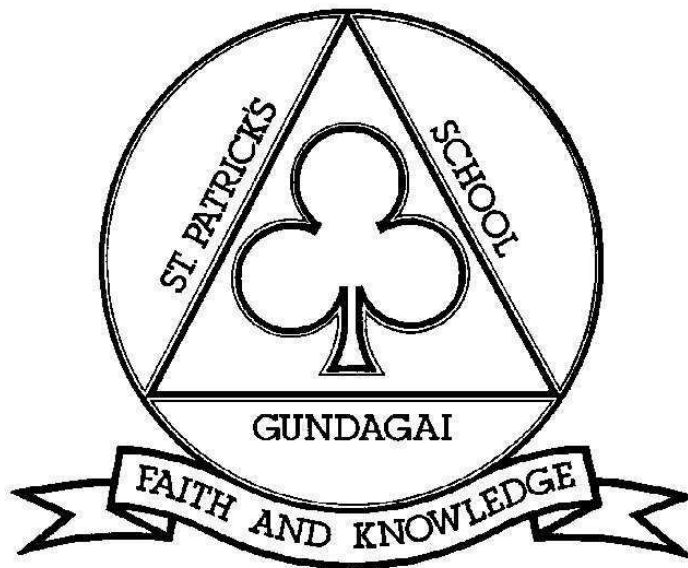


**ST. PATRICK'S PARISH
PRIMARY SCHOOL
GUNDAGAI**



HOMEWORK POLICY

1. Purpose

The staff at St. Patrick's believe that the students need to develop a healthy and positive attitude to learning by consolidating and practicing skills taught at school and in the home environment.

2. Policy

- 2.1 Homework should be a time for positive interaction between family members.
- 2.2 Homework provides parents with knowledge of areas of study in the classroom.
- 2.2 To develop good study habits by completing home-study tasks on a regular basis.
- 2.3 To practice skills taught at school, which will consolidate learning, particularly in the literacy and numeracy areas.
- 2.4 To learn responsibility for completing and returning homework to school on the correct day.
- 2.5 To undertake independent research tasks, e.g. projects, assignments.
- 2.6 The C.E.O Homework Policy has been incorporated into the St. Patrick's Homework Policy.

3. Definitions

3.1 Homework is purposeful out-of-class learning that seeks to enhance the extent to which each Child benefits from the school's educational program (Policy Guide, Education Department of Western Australia)

3.2 What Homework is

- 1. Work assigned for completing outside school hours that is expected to be completed
- 2. Consolidating and Practising skills taught at school
- 3. To develop study habits, time management, independence and responsibility
- 4. Focused on Literacy and Numeracy
- 5. For Research Tasks
- 6. Part of every class routine

3.3 What Homework is Not

- 1. Unfinished work that cannot be completed without assistance
- 2. Designed to turn home into a battleground
- 3. Meant to be an onerous task or waste of precious time
- 4. For weekends or holidays
- 5. As well suited to boys as it is to girls

4. Procedures

- 4.1** “Teachers must be prudent in the assignment of homework and the expectation that it will be completed by all children because of the wide variations in home conditions of the children.” (C.E.O. Policy)
- 4.2** Parents need a positive attitude to their child’s homework. They should expect their child to receive and complete homework tasks and encourage them to complete set tasks satisfactorily.
- 4.3** Homework will be set by individual class teachers either in the form of weekly contracts, or set daily tasks. The students must learn to organize their time around leisure pursuits to ensure that their homework is completed. Home readers will be supplied to assist the children in their literacy development.
- 4.4** Teachers will advise parents of their homework expectations at the beginning of each school year. Teachers should be consistent in applying their homework routines and ensure that homework is corrected and followed up in class.
- 4.5** Homework will not be set to be completed over a weekend (unless parents prefer that option) or holiday period. Homework will not be set if children are away on holidays during the school Term or away due to prolonged illness unless requested by the parents.
- 4.6** Parents will be informed if a child repeatedly does not complete homework to a satisfactory level.
- 4.7** One of the most important skills for a child to master is reading. Parents can greatly assist in the acquisition of reading skills if they:-
- I. model good reading practice;
 - II. purchase books or borrow books regularly from the local library
 - III. encourage the child to read every afternoon/evening; and
 - IV. expose the child to a range of texts, both literary and factual
- 4.8** Homework should not be assigned to complete an activity left unfinished from class if it cannot be completed without teacher assistance.

5. Stage Expectations

5.1 Early Stage 1

Homework Time: 15-20 minutes per night (Terms 1 and 2) Max
20-30 minutes per night (Terms 3 and 4) Max

Homework Activities:

- Reading**
- (a) Parent can discuss pictures in the book with children.
 - (b) Parent can talk about what the book and pictures may be about
 - (c) Parent can discuss experiences with the child that may link to the story.
 - (d) Parent can read to the child
 - (e) Child reads to parent
 - (f) Parent asks the child questions about the story once the story has been read.

Sight Words: Child reads individual sight words to parent.

Homework Sheet: Added during terms 3 and 4 and is related to class work

Jolly Phonics Sounds.

Stage 1

Homework time: 20-30 minutes per night - Max

Homework Activities:

- (a) Reading
 - (b) Spelling Activities using personal spelling list words
 - (c) Sight Words if still applicable
- Homework Sheet may include
- (d) Mathematics
 - (e) English
 - (f) Handwriting
 - (g) Spelling and Vocabulary

N.B At times other Homework may be given eg. Research for H.S.I.E, Religion which will replace homework sheet.

Stage 2

Homework time: 30 - 40 minutes per night (includes 10 minute reading)- Max

Homework Activities:

- (a) Spelling – thematic or word families
- (b) Reading – oral and independent
- (c) Maths – based on class work
- (d) Literacy – a variety of activities

N.B At times other Homework may be given eg. Research for H.S.I.E, Religion which will replace homework sheet.

Stage 3

Homework time: 35 - 40 minutes per night - Max

Homework Activities:

- (a) Reading
- (b) Spelling
- (c) Mathematics
- (d) Other specific tasks relating to classwork eg. Research Assignments

N.B At times other Homework may be given eg. Research for H.S.I.E, Religion which will replace homework sheet.

6. Responsibilities

6.1 Teacher Responsibilities

Teachers will:

- Set appropriate tasks relating to activities in class and real life.
- Send letter home to parents at beginning of year and commencement of each Term setting out expectations for the year and term.
- Set and correct homework and provide feedback to student and parents of effort made by student.
- Inform parents by brief note, letter or phone call that homework has not been completed and for how many weeks it has not been completed.
- Keep a record of homework handed in by student each week.

6.2 Student Responsibilities

Students will:

- Present their work neatly and legibly
- Have a positive attitude to completing homework
- Attempt all homework tasks
- Attempt the work on their own before seeking assistance
- Seek assistance when required
- In Year 6 use Student Diary provided
- Organise a study routine or homework timetable and plan what is done each night around other out of school commitments.
- Ensure they obtain the weekly homework sheet from their class teacher if they are away when the homework is handed out.
- Read every day of the school week
- Work for the required length of time recommended.
- Part of home reader to be read by child to a parent
- Read a variety of text types

6.3 Parent Responsibilities

Parents will:

- Be supportive of St Patrick's Homework Policy
- Support and encourage their child in completing homework
- Notify the class teacher if homework becomes an issue
- Write an explanation for the classroom teacher if the child is unable to complete their homework for any reason eg. Does not understand a concept or unexpected interruption to family routines.
- Provide a space that is conducive for completing homework and learning
- Develop home routines that include completing homework
- Not insist homework is completed after the maximum time has been spent.
- Sign the child's homework sheet
- Sign the child's Home Reading Diary each night.
- Provide the child with materials needed for homework eg. Pencils, pens, erasers, glue, dictionary, atlas etc
- Part of your child's reading needs to be read aloud to parent.

7. General Information

7.1 How to Organise Homework

1. Use a diary to write down your homework (Stage 3) and make a note of when you have to hand it in.
2. If you don't understand something ask the teacher before you go home
3. Have a special study area – not where there is a television – as homework take heaps longer if you're watching TV at the same time!
4. Get into a study routine. Do homework every night, even when you haven't got any. Use the time to practise skills, read or find out about something.
5. Make a homework timetable. Put down all the things you do after school eg. Sport, music lessons, dance, drama etc and work out when your homework time will be each night. Stick to it, and you will find that homework gets easier to manage and you still have time to hang out with your friends.
6. Do your homework on your own. It's ok to ask mum or dad for help – after you have had a really good try by yourself. They're not going to be sitting next to you at school so you need to learn how to do things by yourself don't you?
7. Negotiate with mum and dad about programs you want to watch so that you can work around your favourite shows. Or ask if you can tape them so that you can watch when you have time.
8. If you know something special is happening that night eg. You're going straight to a birthday party – ask your teacher if you can have extra time or work at lunch so that you get your homework done.
9. Catch up on work missed if you are sick.
10. Get work from school if you are sick for more than two days or are going to be away for a long time.
11. Make it a rule that you don't do homework on weekends, then make sure you get it all done during the week so that you can keep the rule.

After all, a kid has got to have some fun! So do parents!

7.2 Some Considerations Based on Research

1. Changes to family structures including the increasing number of one-parent families, increased work demands, increasing community expectations about quality of learning experiences and the competing choices available to families have resulted in the value of homework being questioned.
2. Time is a precious resource for contemporary families. Some homework appears to be better than too much or none at all, however, the time on homework needs to be responsive to the age and development of students. Research has informed the notion of a point of diminishing returns and that specifying a maximum amount of time spent on homework is a common component of homework policies in other jurisdictions. The research indicates that a 'more homework the better' view is misleading and should not be the basis of policy and practice.
3. Parents can influence the homework environment by creating positive conditions for learning and encouraging children to complete home tasks. A successful outcome for homework appears to be contingent on teacher preparation and the setting of 'real life' tasks, the motivation of students and the level of parental support available.
4. Homework activities appear to be most effective when linked directly to class activities so that homework is part of the learning process across home and school.

8. Evaluation

The Homework Policy will be evaluated by the staff and parents of St. Patrick's as the need arises, and prior to the next Registration. The evaluation will be implemented using the procedures/guidelines set down in the Evaluation Policy.