

St Patrick's Allora - Homework Policy

Rationale:

Homework is the part of school life that affects home life most directly. In a Catholic school, it is desirable for homework to have positive enriching benefits. It is often the daily link between school and home. Some of these benefits include:

- Encouraging the development of student responsibility for learning.
- the opportunity for children to consolidate what they have learnt at school
- the development of good long term work and study habits as a preparation for further study
- opportunities to engage parents in their child's education and develop a regular parental awareness of their child's progress, strengths and weaknesses.

Policy:

Homework will be set regularly and may consist of both written tasks and study assignments which a teacher asks a child to perform in addition to the work completed in the classroom.

Method:

Reading

Reading is an important activity that should continue throughout the primary years. In years 1 and 2 the reading material may include set school readers aimed specifically at the child's reading level. By middle school the children should be encouraged to widen their reading to newspapers, magazines, library books or other reference materials. In addition to the below guidelines, we welcome the support of parents in encouraging their children to read for at least 10 minutes each night. This needs to be a combination of reading to, with, and by the child (individual reading) across all years of primary schooling .

Set Homework:

Regulations and Procedures

1. All teachers will set some form of homework on a regular weekly basis (excluding holidays).
2. Each teacher will communicate to parents/carers the homework requirements for their class at the beginning of the school year and/or as expectations change.
3. Set homework may include both written and/or study assignments. Detailed written guides for homework, especially projects and assignments, will be given (for younger students this may include oral tasks). Homework will cover work already introduced in class in the areas of literacy and numeracy and may be adjusted/modified to address the learning needs of specific students.
4. The maximum time to be spent on set homework **for each year level per week**, based on a four-night program, will be:
 - Prep – up to 20 minutes
 - Years 1 and 2: 40 minutes – 80 minutes
 - Years 3 and 4: 80minutes – 2hrs
 - Years 5 and 6: 2 – 3 hours

Note# - The supervision of homework by parents should not lead to stressful situations. Teachers and parents/carers should engage in conversation with one another with the aim to provide appropriate support to the child.

5. While it is appreciated that some children may complete set homework in less than the maximum time, no child who has worked diligently (attending to the tasks with care and neatness), will be expected to work beyond that time.
6. All homework will be checked daily/weekly and assessed at the teacher's discretion. From this assessment, teachers will give to children and parents appropriate feedback where required.
7. Parents/Carers should assist children in the development of healthy time management practices by the establishment of routines and provide them with a quiet area to complete homework.
8. Parents/Carers will inform teachers with a note signed when unforeseen circumstances prevent the child from completing their set homework. Children will be required to complete their homework in their own time at school where a note of explanation and/or circumstances worthy of consideration by the teacher is/are not present.
9. Children will enter fully into the partnership by accepting responsibility for the completion and presentation of homework, given that they have worked diligently for the set time.