



# St Francis Xavier

## Homework Policy & Procedure

### RATIONALE

At St Francis Xavier we acknowledge that learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important as it gives children the opportunity to practise at home the tasks covered in class and helps the children work towards improving important skills. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and in adult life. Homework also provides parents with the opportunity to take part in their children's education. It assists in strengthening partnerships between parents/caregivers and the school and is designed to support each child in developing the attributes of a lifelong learner.

The purpose of homework is:

- To enhance classroom learning
- To build productive habits in:
  - Managing time
  - Organising materials
  - Preparing for an upcoming event eg A project

### Guidelines

#### **Time**

In determining homework, it is important to acknowledge that students may be engaging in many different activities outside of school. These include a range of physical activities and sports, recreational and cultural pursuits. The amount of time taken to do homework will vary according to individual capabilities and family circumstances. The time frame for completion of homework activities will be flexible, taking into account family routines and timetables. As homework is not intended to be an onerous or stressful activity, the following recommendations are offered.

#### **Prep**

In the Prep year, homework will focus on the development of reading to, with and by parents/caregivers. Optional information homework will be provided in a grid format and will entail tasks to supplement skill development and independence.

#### **Year One**

Year One homework consists of nightly reading, practising sight words and a grid of optional activities. Students are encouraged to read nightly. Homework is distributed each Monday and should be returned each Friday. The grid of optional activities may include:

- Daily reading to, with and by parent/caregivers or other family members
- Completing activities of Reading Eggs
- Linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- Conversations about what is happening at school
- Preparation of oral presentations

- Opportunities to write work across the various KLAs
- Extension of class work across the various KLAs

## **Year Two**

In Year 2 homework could be up to but not more than a total of one hour per week which includes number facts and spelling. Reading would be completed on top of this. Daily reading to, with and by parents/caregivers or other family members is expected.

## **Year Three to Six**

Homework can be completed over a weekly or fortnightly period depending on year level

It will include:

- Daily independent reading
- Extension of class work across the various KLAs
- Project/ Assignment and research work except in Yr 5
- Completion of unfinished class work.

In Year 3 no more than 1 ½ hours per week. In Years 4 and 5, homework could be up to but not more than a total of 3 hours per week. In Year 6, homework could be up to but not more than a total of 3 ½ hours per week. Yr 6 homework will be communicated via email.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Leadership Team will:**

- Develop a school homework policy, in consultation with the school community
- Ensure the homework policy is effectively implemented throughout the school
- Conduct reviews to ensure the policy is current

### **Teachers will:**

- Ensure the homework policy is implemented and followed
- Communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to parents/caregivers and students
- Ensure that the homework tasks are varied and relevant
- Monitor the homework practices of their students
- Acknowledge and/or mark any homework that is submitted
- Contact parents/caregivers to discuss any concerns regarding homework
- Provide opportunities for students to discuss any difficulties they are experiencing with homework
- Explicitly teach strategies to develop organizational and time management skills and providing opportunities to practise these strategies through homework

### **Parents/Caregivers will:**

- Be aware of and support the school's homework policy
- Discuss homework activities and expectations with their children
- Encourage their children organize their time and take responsibility for completing homework
- Contact the relevant teacher/s to discuss any concerns about homework

### **Students will:**

- Be aware of their class homework policy
- Accept responsibility for the completion of homework tasks, taking into consideration home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities
- Ensure their homework is signed/acknowledges by their parents/caregivers
- Be responsible for submitting their completed homework when expected
- Ensure laptops are fully charged overnight

