
Trinity Catholic Primary School Homework Policy



HOMEWORK

A STATEMENT OF AGREED PRACTICE 2017

RATIONALE

At Trinity Catholic Primary School we recognise the importance of family life and the need for children to participate in family and community activities. We also recognise the diversity of family structures, work patterns, lifestyles, parental expectation and demands on family time.

Written homework should complement work already taught. It should be varied, catering for the range of abilities within the classroom. When accepting completed homework, teachers allow for wide variations in home conditions.

BELIEFS

At Trinity we believe that homework:

- develops personal responsibility, discipline, time and organisational skills
- reinforces the classroom learning and is based on current learning achievements
- reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education
- provides parents and carers with insight into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children
- should take into consideration the extracurricular and home life of the students

We believe that teachers, parents and children each have responsibilities regarding the completion of homework.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Listed below are ways that each particular group can help to ensure the success of the homework policy at Trinity Catholic School.

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| PARENTS / CAREGIVERS CAN HELP BY: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taking an active interest in homework • creating routines for children • providing an atmosphere conducive to work where encouragement and support are provided • reading to/with children or listening to children read daily and discussing elements of the book (to assist with comprehension) • offering encouragement and support • offering assistance without doing the homework for the child • being positive and respecting the child's knowledge and skills • supporting children in making it their responsibility to complete activities • communicating with the teacher when necessary regarding homework issues • using their discretion with regard to their child's ability and the time spent on homework. Parents are encouraged to communicate a child's difficulty with a homework task |
| TEACHERS CAN HELP BY: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explaining to students and parents the purpose and benefits of homework • giving clear, explicit instructions and feedback • being consistent in the approach to homework (including informing parents of individual class routines) • ensuring students and parents are aware of the school's Homework Policy • providing quality homework activities related to class work • keeping homework relevant • providing a variety of activities to cater for all abilities, interests and needs • discussing with learning Support teacher and parents, the appropriate homework requirements for children with special needs • making tasks achievable • ensuring opportunities for reader material eg digital books to be changed/accessed regularly • being clear in their expectations and tasks • marking homework promptly and appropriately • maintaining homework records and providing feedback • communicating with parents about their child's homework when necessary |
| STUDENTS CAN HELP BY: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being aware of the school's homework practices • working consistently for the required amount of time and handing it in on time • completing work themselves (with parent assistance only) • putting in the same effort as they do in class with presentation • ensuring they are organised with the necessary equipment • managing time to ensure homework is completed (especially in older grades) • communicating any difficulties to the teacher and parents • showing their homework to their parents • ensuring homework is of a high standard |

IMPLEMENTATION

Home Reading

- A home reading program exists in every grade. In Kinder new readers come home once a week initially and may come home more frequently according to the child's reading ability. Supplementary readers may also come home when appropriate. A note is sent home at the commencement of the home reading program to explain this further.
- Years 1 – 2, the children select an appropriate reader from class boxes to read each night. The reader is changed regularly and parents are asked to sign the home reading record sheet. Children also have access to digital books which are regularly checked and monitored by the teachers.
- In Years 3 – 6, all the students are required to read every night. They may use books from the classroom, library books or other reading material from home. Reading is expected from all students every night.

Home reading includes

- reading to your child
- reading with your child
- your child reading aloud and
- reading quietly to themselves.

General Homework

- An agreement will be established at the beginning of each year between each class teacher. Teachers will discuss homework expectations with students and parents will be informed at the parent information nights. Each teacher from Year 1 to Year 6 will also send a note home at the commencement of the school year which will clearly outline homework and expectations for the class. This will establish teacher and parent expectations in relation to homework and provide strategies intended for use during the year.
- Homework should not be assigned to complete an activity left unfinished from class if it cannot be completed without teacher assistance.
- Homework is work to be completed at home – not left to be done at school.
- Homework from Kindergarten to Year 6 will be given by each teacher for 4 nights per week. Some families may choose to do their homework on different nights due to sporting/family commitments.
- The place of technology in today's world is recognised, however, no student should be disadvantaged if they have no access to technology at home.
- Each Year level does not have time constraints placed on the homework. If a child chooses to read or participate in online learning for longer than required, that is their choice.

Sabbath Week and Week 10

- Week 7 of each term is designated as a family week and no written homework is given in this week. Students are still expected to read each night. During Sabbath week, families are encouraged to do activities together. No Homework is issued during the last week of term. As there is no opportunity for follow up on the work completed, children are not expected to complete formal written work.

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| Specific Homework Practices |
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The specific homework practices for each year level are outlined below.

Homework Plan Kinder to Year 6

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| Kinder (10 minutes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading with or to your child every night and complete some of these activities: • Alphabet and Number cards for letter and number recognition • Inquiry task-Terms 3 & 4 <p>Home readers/digital readers will be changed weekly or more frequently depending on their ability. Please record your child’s reading on the Reading log.</p> |
| Terms 2 - 4 | |
| Years 1 and 2 (15 minutes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Log • Inquiry Task-Maths & Spelling tasks |
| Years 3 and 4 (20 minutes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Log • Typing Tournament • Online Learning – Inquiry Investigation/assignment • Follow up work from class |
| Years 5 and 6 (30 minutes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Log • Typing Tournament • Online learning – Inquiry Investigation/assignment • Follow up work from class |