

ST FINBAR'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY



January 2017

St Finbar's school community believe that we are all lifelong learners and students need to develop a positive attitude towards learning. The setting of regular homework should help our students to develop important organisational and time management skills that will assist them in their future learning. Regular homework aims to reinforce learning which has taken place in the classroom and aims to provide parents with an opportunity to see what their child is learning in the classroom.

We acknowledge that many students are involved in extra curricula activities and therefore a flexible scheduling of homework is provided to allow for students to participate in after-school activities. Homework should enhance a love of learning and not be a burden to children and their families.

Homework forms an important aspect of the partnership that exists between home and school. Contemporary learning strategies involving the use of technology enhances engagement and collegiality.

1.0 AIMS

- To assist in students' development of initiative, independent working habits, thinking and skills.
- To encourage and foster each student's responsibility for their own learning at their appropriate level.
- To provide an opportunity for parents to be involved in their child's learning.
- To encourage reading as a key component of homework in all year levels.
- To provide homework tasks that reflect and consolidate skills taught in the classroom.
- To set homework tasks to cater for the individual needs of each child.
- To provide homework activities which are purposeful and varied.
- To foster a positive attitude towards homework as a tool for consolidating and extending their learning.
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2.0 HOMEWORK IS A JOINT RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 Teacher Responsibility – teachers are responsible for

- Assigning homework on a fortnightly basis.
- Setting homework tasks which reinforce work taught at school and which cater for individual differences.
- Giving direction to students regarding the completion of assigned tasks.
- Informing parents if a student does not complete the homework set.
- Sight and sign homework as required and provide feedback as necessary.

2.2 Parent Responsibility – parents are responsible for

- Setting a regular working time and place to work, within reason and in negotiation with the child.
- Establishing a positive working environment for children to undertake homework.
- Checking the quality and quantity of their child's homework, encouraging efficient use of time.
- Encouraging children (Yrs F–6) to read each night during the week.
- Correct and sign the homework, with the exception of 'Maths Mate', to ensure the child has carried out tasks.

2.3 Student Responsibility – students are responsible for

- Accessing/Taking home the homework sheet.
- Reading for the prescribed amount of time each night.
- Completing written homework tasks to the best of their ability in the assigned time.
- Ensuring parents sign and correct all completed written homework (with the exception of 'Maths Mate') and the reading log/diary.
- Handing in completed homework on time.

3.0 HOMEWORK TIME ALLOCATIONS

Year Level	Nightly Reading	Other Homework Tasks	Time Allocation over two weeks.
Foundation	10 mins		
Year 1	15 mins		
Year 2	15 mins	Spelling, Number work	1 hour over the two weeks
Year 3	15-20 mins	Spelling, Maths Mate, Variety of tasks that reinforce learning in the classroom.	1.5 hours over the two weeks
Year 4	20 mins	Maths Mate, Variety of tasks that reinforce learning in the classroom.	2 hours over the two weeks
Year 5	20 mins minimum	Maths Mate, Variety of tasks that reinforce learning in the classroom.	2-3 hours over the two weeks
Year 6	20 mins minimum	Maths Mate, Variety of tasks that reinforce learning in the classroom.	2-3 hours over the two weeks

4.0 Homework

The homework for Years 2 - 6 will be on a fortnightly rotation with the exception of Reading Diaries and Maths Mate. Some of the activities may require online access.

5.0 Parent Acknowledgement of Homework

If homework is not acknowledged and signed by a parent at the end of the homework cycle an email from the child's class teacher will be sent. Parents who regularly do not sign off on homework will be contacted by the school.

6.0 EXTENDED ABSENCE HOMEWORK

Should parents decide to take extended holidays they are encouraged to involve their child in other learning experiences as much as possible, in conjunction with daily reading and journal writing – recounting the events of the day. Teachers do not provide work for children on extended holidays.