

# MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## HOMework POLICY



### Rationale

The homework policy at Mother Teresa Primary School is a guide for teachers, parents and carers in helping children with homework.

At Mother Teresa Primary School:

- We believe that homework is important to consolidate work covered in class and to establish study habits in students
- Homework is set by class teachers for students to complete at home
- T-2 homework is set with the expectation that families support its completion
- 3-4 homework is set with the expectation that families and students support the establishment of routines and take ownership of homework completion
- 5-6 homework is to be completed by students with developing independence
- Homework is an opportunity for interaction between parents and children. It enables parents/carers to keep in touch with what their children are learning and it gives them the opportunity to participate and reinforce classroom work
- As students move through the year levels they will be expected to take on increasing responsibility for managing their time and organising their own work loads. This is an essential component of our role as primary educators as we prepare our students for the demands and increased expectations of higher education
- As educators, it is our responsibility to provide our students with homework that reflects best current practice based on educational research

### Parent Guide

Parents and carers have a very important role in supporting their child/children throughout their education. Homework is an aspect of school life that continues to build the relationship between home and school. Homework should be enjoyable and achievable by the student and it should consolidate work covered in the classroom. It is also important that there is a good balance with sport, hobbies, music, play and family life. If homework is delivered electronically MTCPS will endeavour to supply hard copies if requested.

A guide to making home learning achievable and successful for your child:

- Give encouragement and support to your child
- Enjoy the opportunity to learn with your child in a positive interactive environment
- Engage with your child about their learning
- Supervise, guide and facilitate your child's learning, try not to do it for them
- Make time to listen to your child read or organise another family member to hear reading particularly in the early years
- Provide healthy snacks and water to improve concentration levels
- Make sure students have a good night's sleep so they are not too tired during or after school
- Provide quiet flat space to work
- Minimise distractions while homework is being done. This could mean no TV, phone calls or messages, loud music
- Monitor what students are doing on the computer.
- Communicate with the teacher if there are problems or when things are working well
- Balance homework with other important areas like sport, music and family events

Please note, teachers will not be implementing consequences for incomplete home learning. Students who complete their homework will be given the opportunity to participate in other activities on Friday afternoon. Teachers cannot influence what occurs in the home environment. It is the responsibility of the parent (with their child) to ensure home learning is completed. Where homework interferes with harmony within the family, families are asked to discuss the content of the homework with their child's teacher.

## Expectations

### **Teachers:**

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- Setting homework on a regular basis; eg. home learning will be provided every Monday to be handed in on the Friday of the same week;
- Clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework;
- Using homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs;
- Explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through home learning; and
- Discussing with parents and caregivers and developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their home learning.

### **Students:**

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks;
- Following up on comments made by teachers;
- Seeking assistance when difficulties arise; and
- Developing an understanding of the value that homework can bring to their learning outcomes.

(Please note that these expectations will vary dependent on age of student)

### **Parents:**

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- Reading to them, talking and involving their child in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity;
- Helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources;
- Encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning;
- Encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events;
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities; and
- Contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.

## Implementation

Year Level	Expectations	Time Frame
Transition	Readers, Phonics: focus sounds	10 - 15 minutes each night
Year 1 Year 2	Readers Maths games grid	15 minutes each night
Year 3 Year 4	Readers (RWI) / Novels Maths Activities Grid	20 minutes each night
Year 5 Year 6	Reading Independently Homework Hound Set Tasks	30 minutes each night

## Homework during School Absences

If your child is going to be away from school during the term (i.e. not school holiday time) for family holidays/travelling we suggest:

- Keeping a diary about their trip
- A journal of their activities
- Writings and drawings about what they have seen or done
- Prepare an oral presentation about their trip to share with the class
- School will not provide formal homework for family holidays

#### **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or as required.

This policy will be published on the Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School website.

#### **Review/Ratification**

Year of review	SIRF Committee Responsible	Ratified By / Date (Month/Year)
2022	Teaching and Learning	School Board
2024	Teaching and Learning	School Board

**Next Review:** 2024