**St Martin’s Primary School**

**HOMEWORK POLICY**

The Staff, Parents and Students of St Martin’s Primary School recognise and value developmentally appropriate homework as essential to teaching and learning.

Homework provides children with an opportunity to review and practise some aspects of their class work through consolidation activities and reading. Reading for ALL children is ESSENTIAL. READERS ARE ACHIEVERS and there is no substitute for reading!

The purpose of developmentally appropriate homework tasks are to:

* reinforce concepts taught in school
* establish good learning habits, self-discipline and self-motivation
* enhance communication between parents and teachers regarding student’s learning
* encourage students to adopt a positive attitude towards learning.

**Guidelines**

* In general homework may be given weekly (e.g. contract) in order to allow students some flexibility to cater for extra-curricular activities
* Homework should be relevant to class work
* Guidelines for time allocated and parental involvement will be discussed at parent information night at the beginning of the school year
* Teachers will consider the amount of, and due date of, homework at times when school and other events are infringing upon a group’s or individual’s routine
* There will be no homework in Week 10 as it is whole school Wellbeing Week
* The prime responsibility for completing homework rests with the student. Parents have a supportive role with regard to homework. Parents are encouraged to assist students by providing the necessary routines and resources, listening to students read/reading to them and reading over written work. This support role should not take away from the prime responsibility of the student.

**Student responsibilities**

* Complete homework tasks in an appropriate place and within the allotted time
* Discuss problems or concerns about homework with the teacher
* Develop a positive and responsible attitude towards homework
* Ensure work is neat and of a high standard
* Accept and follow the consequences of incomplete or unsatisfactory homework

**Teacher responsibilities**

* Communicate homework expectations to parents at commencement of school year
* Assign homework tasks which are developmentally appropriate
* Give clear directions to enable effective completion of the homework
* Ensure homework tasks are marked in a timely manner
* Report on student progress and attitude towards homework
* Assign homework which meets the school’s homework policy

**Parent responsibilities**

* Provide set routines and a quiet place for children to work
* Model and apply positive reinforcement to help the child’s homework efforts
* Encourage their child to ask for specific help
* Encourage and expect a high standard of work on homework tasks
* Structure a routine which balances homework, family time and extra curricula activities - include time for play and creative activities!
* Alert class teacher as to any major difficulties their child has experienced in doing the homework
* Discuss with the teacher any special needs or concerns in relation to homework as early as possible so a more beneficial routine is developed early (this can be done through the school diary or homework book)

**Recommended time allocations per day (4 days/week)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Year Level | Literacy/Numeracy Consolidation | Reading |
| Prep | No formal homework is set. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to hear their child read each night and read to their child. | 10 mins |
| Year 1 | On occasion information gathering tasks will be set. | 10 mins |
| Year 2 |  10 mins |  10 mins |
| Year 3 |  10 mins |  15 mins |
| Year 4 |  15 mins |  15 mins |
| Year 5 |  15 mins |  15 mins |
| Year 6 |  30 mins  |

At different stages in a student’s education there will be varied expectations as to the amount and format of set homework. When students have projects, they may take a little longer, but no student in primary school should be spending hours doing homework.