Homework Policy

Rationale
Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their learning. Homework is seen as a beneficial activity when directly related to classroom learning. It enables parents/guardians to develop an awareness of classroom practice and expectations and allows them to be actively involved in their child’s learning. Along with external interests such as sport and music, homework is important in developing the ‘whole child’ by increasing independence and skills that promote lifelong learning.

Purpose
Homework provides parents the opportunity to play an active role in their child’s learning and develop an understanding of what is taking place at school. Homework encourages children to take responsibility for ongoing learning through the establishment of routines and time management skills. It should be designed to develop and reinforce skills to support classroom learning. Homework should be meaningful and purposeful to ensure that students develop a positive attitude towards their learning and study habits.

Implementation

*Responsibilities of Teachers:*

- Teachers shall conduct a class information session at the start of each year to inform parents about homework expectations.
- The timeframe for the completion of homework is at the discretion of the teacher, however they shall be open to negotiation with parents when extenuating circumstances exist. Homework shall always be given with a date for submission that is reasonable and allows the child flexibility to complete it around their other pursuits. For example, given on Tuesday and due on the following Monday.
- Homework shall always be meaningful and relevant to the course of study being undertaken in the classroom. Activities shall include (but are not limited to) reading, spelling, mathematics and life skills.
- Homework shall be marked and acknowledged.
- Teachers shall enforce consequences for students who have not returned their homework.
- Homework should take into consideration the individual needs of the students. This includes revising the amount of homework given to students when undertaking activities such as the Sacramental Program.
- Teachers should set homework with the following timeframes in mind:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minutes Per Night</th>
<th>Hours per Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>15 Minutes</td>
<td>1 Hour and 15 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15 Minutes</td>
<td>1 Hour and 15 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>15 Minutes</td>
<td>1 Hour and 15 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>30 Minutes</td>
<td>2 Hours and 30 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>30 Minutes</td>
<td>2 Hours and 30 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>40 Minutes</td>
<td>3 Hours and 20 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>40 Minutes</td>
<td>3 Hours and 20 Minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Nightly reading and show ‘n’ tell preparation is included in the above timeframes.*
Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians:

- To assist teachers by monitoring homework, signing their child’s student diary and/or homework book.
- Engage in conversation with their child about their homework.
- Take an interest in their child’s homework and provide a supportive environment within which their child can complete their work requirements.
- Communicate any concerns regarding homework directly to the classroom teacher.

Responsibilities of Students:

- Develop an appreciation that homework and the associated study skills are required for lifelong learners.
- Develop an understanding about the relevance of their homework to their learning.
- Recognise that teachers are available to provide assistance with homework when asked.
- Establish a routine for homework and external interests in their diary to ensure homework is completed and submitted on time.

Evaluation
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s five-year review cycle or as required.

Ratification
This policy was last ratified by St Thomas’ Primary School in August 2012.