Rationale

At St Thomas’ we believe homework to be worthwhile as it extends learning opportunities beyond the school environment.

Homework is a positive learning tool that develops, consolidates and reinforces skills and understandings presented in class.

We recognise and strongly agree that homework assists in developing sound work routines, organisational skills, fluency and self-discipline and should be of educational value. Homework is the responsibility of the home.

General Objectives

The purpose of homework is for students to:
1. Practise and reinforce what has been learned in class
2. Develop sound study and work habits
3. Create opportunities to develop fluency in certain areas.

Amount

The amount of time to be spent on homework will increase as children progress from Year 1 to Year 6.

These times are approximates and some children will vary in the amount of time taken to complete homework. If your child is taking quite a long time to complete their homework, please advise the teacher.

Year 1 10 minutes  Year 4 20 minutes
Year 2 15 minutes  Year 5 20 minutes
Year 3 15 minutes  Year 6 30 minutes

Homework may be set on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Homework will mainly consist of reading, English tasks or Maths tasks, but is not limited to these areas.

Reading for pleasure to establish sound reading habits for Years 1 to 6 for 10-30 minutes per evening is not seen as “homework” and is additional to the above time allocation.

Homework will not be set for children who are sick or who are going away on holiday. For these children we suggest (a) reading (b) journal writing (c) practical mathematics e.g. kilometres travelled.
Parent Involvement

1. To provide a quiet area where the child feels comfortable.

2. To monitor the time spent on homework - a routine time block taking account of other activities.

3. To provide equipment needed to complete homework, which may involve access to the internet via some form of digital technology, as well as pens or pencils.

4. To show interest and to offer guidance (facilitate) but NOT to solve content problems.

Communication

Teachers will maintain a record of homework completed.

Teachers will provide oral or written feedback to the student on their homework within a reasonable time frame.

Homework may be set in a number of formats, such as paper-based or digitally.