



**Topic:** Homework Policy

**Policy No reference (CECWA):**

**Policy Area:** Education

**Date of Review:** 2018

## 1.0 RATIONALE

Mel Maria Catholic Primary School believes that homework is a valuable way for children to reinforce knowledge and skills taught at school. Homework is the responsibility of parents/carers as well as the school and may include activities organised by both. Teachers set homework that they believe is fair in the context of the classroom.

## 2.0 PRINCIPLES

1. Children need time to relax and recharge after a hectic day at school. Therefore, time out to play and to become involved in extra-curricular activities is seen as important in the development of a balanced lifestyle.
2. It is important that children arrive at school fresh and eager to learn and therefore formal homework in primary school is minimal, not to impinge on family time and most importantly not to cause stress and concern to the child.
3. Teachers may vary in the content given for homework depending on the needs of the children and the type of work covered at each year level.
4. Homework aims to:
  - Complement learning in the classroom.
  - Develop a routine that supports good study habits for now and in the future.
  - Encourage the student to take responsibility for learning outside the classroom.
5. The school values and understands that family and special occasions may mean that homework is not always completed and that these are also important learning experiences.

## 3.0 PROCEDURES

Homework Years 1- 6

- Homework is set from Monday to Thursday night inclusive.
- Work set will vary according to the age and ability of the child.
- Students are responsible for homework and records as appropriate.
- Homework is allocated to give students with extra-curricular activities a more appropriate time frame in which to complete set tasks.
- Support with homework is encouraged by parents/carers for your child to maximise learning.
- Students can become quite concerned if set homework is not completed. Therefore, a note to the teacher helps to overcome unnecessary stress for all concerned.
- Sustained reading is included and encouraged at all year levels.
- Homework may be differentiated in order to address the individual needs of students.

**Maximum** recommended times per night (this includes reading):

Year	1	15 minutes
Years	2/3	20 - 30 minutes
Years	4/5	30 - 40 minutes
Year	6	40 - 50 minutes

#### Kindergarten & Pre Primary

Early Childhood education has an emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language, and social and emotional development (including early literacy and numeracy) p5 *The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) for Australia*.

In accordance with the mandated Early Years Learning Framework for Australia document and the Foundation level of the Australian National Curriculum, it is not developmentally appropriate nor best early childhood practice to allocate homework to Kindergarten and Pre Primary students.

Therefore, at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School, Kindergarten and Pre Primary students are not given formal homework.

#### 4.0 HOLIDAYS DURING SCHOOL TIME

Teachers **are not** expected to prepare work for students taking holidays during school time.

Parents/carers may wish to purchase educational material from an educational supplier for their child. However, it is the parents/carers responsibility to mark this work and give feedback immediately for this to be a valuable learning experience.

Practical activities for holidays and trips include:

- Word games e.g. sign alphabet – the first to see all the signs beginning with each letter of the alphabet wins; ‘I Spy’.
- Read a book, brochures, magazines, signs; play travel board games; write a diary/journal; collect brochures, tickets, coins, cards.
- Listen to CD stories.
- Visit educational sites e.g. Kalgoorlie mines, an art gallery, a museum, the Library.
- Send postcards home.

#### 5.0 FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Family holidays during school time are not encouraged. This is a disruption to your child’s education. It is preferred that students do not take holidays during school terms.

*A form is available in the school office that will need to be completed if a student/s take/s an extended holiday during school terms.*