ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
MACKAY

SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY IDENTIFICATION

Policy Classification: C300

Policy Area: Homework

Update: 19/002/01

Notes:

Policy Areas:
(R/C) ~ Relationships/Communication
(E) ~ Enrolment
(F) ~ Finance
(B) ~ Building: Facilities – Maintenance and
    Planning
(M) ~ Management/Organisation
(C) ~ Curriculum
(S) ~ Staffing

Policy Identification Key ~ Levels
100 ~ State
200 ~ Diocesan
300 ~ Local

Ref: mydoc/board/policiesheet
POLICY AREA

HOMEWORK

DEFINITION/PURPOSE

"Homework is purposeful out-of-class learning that seeks to enhance the extent to which each child benefits from the school’s educational program.” (Policy Guide, Education Department of Western Australia)

PREAMBLE

Homework is an integral part of the learning expectations for students at St Francis Xavier School. Regular homework helps to build good study habits. These habits include self-discipline, responsibility, organizational skills, time management skills and independence. The community believes that homework should:

- Reinforce work done in class;
- Have an easily identifiable purpose;
- Inform parents of topics/subjects being covered in class;
- Provide opportunities for students to show interest and ability in subjects;
- Be challenging but achievable;
- Generally be able to be completed independently by students;
- Cover a variety of Key Learning Areas.

Homework is a partnership between school and home; teacher, parent and child ~ each have responsibilities.

VALUES

Self-discipline, pride, independence, responsibility, initiative.

POLICY

Homework is an integral part of the learning process for students. Regular homework will be set for all students from Years 1 ~ 7. Tasks set will be appropriate to age and ability of students.

CONSEQUENCES

- Homework guidelines, including suggested time expectations, will be developed for each year level;
- These guidelines will be consistent throughout the school;
- Homework guidelines will be communicated to parents at parent/teacher meetings at the beginning of each year and/or when necessary throughout the year;
- Students will be made aware of class homework expectations.
ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL ~ POLICY AND PROCEDURES ~ STAFF MANUAL

AREA: Curriculum ~ homework
UPDATED: 18.08.2000

GUIDELINES FOR HOMEWORK

PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

"Homework is purposeful out-of-class learning that seeks to enhance the extent to which each child benefits from the school's educational program." (Policy Guide, Education Department of Western Australia)

POLICY STATEMENT

Homework is an integral part of class learning expectations for students. Regular homework will be set for all students from Years 1 to 7. Tasks set will be appropriate to age and ability of students.

BELIEF STATEMENTS ABOUT HOMEWORK:

It is important that homework should:
- Reinforce work done in class;
- Have an easily identifiable purpose;
- Inform parents of subjects/topics covered in class;
- Provide an opportunity for students to show interest and ability in subjects;
- Develop good study habits;
- Allow for extension/limits;
- Generally be able to be completed independently by students ~ suitable amount and standard for each year level;
- Be documented;
- Cover all Key Learning Areas (not just Language and Maths);
- Be challenging but achievable.

TIME GUIDELINES:

The following time periods are to be used as a guide:
- Years 1&2 ~ 10 ~ 15 mins (most homework for Year 1 & 2 students will consist of reading)
- Years 3&4 ~ 15 ~ 20 mins
- Years 5,6&7 ~ 20 ~ 40 mins

Homework is a partnership between school and home; teacher, parent and child each have responsibilities:

Responsibility of the Class Teacher:
- Set appropriate homework ~ ensure homework is copied down in the student diary or presented on a homework sheet;
- Check and mark work ~ at least weekly;
- Provide feedback and encouragement;
- Explain and follow up where required;
- Support students and parents if difficulties occur;
- Make homework expectations clear to parents and students;
- Make expectations flexible to accommodate individual circumstances.

Parent's responsibility:
- Oversee homework ~ check it is done & to an appropriate standard (parents need to use discretion in this area as to what is a "reasonable expectation" for homework, that is, offer a level of support without "doing" the homework for the child);
- Assist with reading each night;
- Hear spelling and tables;
- Contact the teacher if the child is having problems with homework;
- Stay informed/aware of homework expectations;
• Provide a quiet homework environment and routine at home;
• Sign homework (if required).

Student’s responsibility:
• Complete homework to the best of their ability;
• Hand work in on time;
• Work independently as much as possible;
• Be organized;
• Find out/ask about anything which is causing concern;
• Check if homework is in their bag (going to and from school).

Types of homework:
• Informal homework ~ word or number games, family conversation about a topic, participating in cooking or shopping, science experiments;
• Formal homework ~ purpose is to reinforce what is learned in class by having children practise and revise work or skills;
• “Getting ready” homework ~ gathering information about particular experiences (making a family tree, graphing television viewing habits) or finding examples of objects at home (levers and pulleys);
• Projects;
• Extension or creative homework ~ writing book reviews, stories, poems, songs, making or designing something.

We believe the following are suitable formal activities:
• Practice and consolidation of work;
• Written work/writing tasks eg dairy, journal, sentences, sums, definitions, handwriting.
• Reading which requires a response;
• Projects;
• BTN, science experiment write-ups;
• Completing activities;
• Orals, demonstrations, book reviews, poetry recitals.

We believe the following are suitable informal activities:
• Reading and being read to for enjoyment;
• Observation and discussion eg. Plotting phases of the moon;
• Measuring activities using the home environment;
• Bringing in particular equipment from home;
• Reading the paper, watching the news;
• Informal discussion about a topic in religion;
• Carry out Lenten promises, prayers, reflections;
• Learning spelling and tables;
• Fun spot on homework sheet, mind teasers and quizzes.

We believe that activities are not suitable for homework if they:
• Require work without adequate instructions;
• Are not appropriate to ability level of the students;
• Cause conflict or confusion with parents;
• Require group work;
• Take too long to complete;
• Cost money;
• Set on the weekend.