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| APPLICABLE TO | Staff and Students of St Therese’s New Lambton |
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| RELATED DOCUMENTS | *Homework Policy: Research Scan. Published May, 2012 by the NSW Department of Education.* <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/Hwk_Pol_guide.pdf> |

Homework

Policy

# Purpose

This policy aims to support all staff, students and the wider school community members in their understanding of their role and responsibilities regarding Homework K - 6.

# Policy Statement

The Homework Policy provides a framework of common understanding for students, staff, parents/carers and the community, in a simple and meaningful way, about the expectations of homework. This policy is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our students who use the services and facilities of this school.

In the formulation of this policy, the school acknowledges that teaching and learning in the 21st Century poses challenges different from those of the past. As a staff we have developed a policy that recognises current research on home learning and acknowledges that tasks completed at home are part of a child’s learning, not “work.” The school also acknowledges that many children and parents have valuable after-school commitments, which contribute to the overall development of the child.

St Therese’s staff and parents believe that appropriate home-learning reinforces daily learning and fosters the development of relevant study skills. Homework provides a means for teachers and parents to work collaboratively to meet the needs of the individual child. We encourage students to pursue excellence in all fields of school education in accordance with their gifts and capabilities.

# Definitions

**Homework** - schoolwork that a pupil is required to do at home.

**Project Based Learning** - is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex question, problem, or challenge.

# Scope

All staff at St. Therese’s New Lambton are covered by this policy and it is associated with the Homework Procedure.

# Guiding Principles

At St Therese’s we value an education that:

* Teaches individual responsibility through self-discipline and time management.
* Promotes organizational skills and a positive attitude towards research.
* Caters to the needs of the individual student.
* Encourages good home study patterns from an early age.
* Provide a context for parents to support their children in learning.
* Establishes consistency throughout the school concerning our approach to home learning and communicate this approach to parents and students.
* Emphasise the importance of reading skill development as an integral part of home learning.
* Provide opportunities for choice or scaffolding of tasks to cater for individual learning styles.
* Includes parents/carers in the education of their child.
* Promotes a healthy and active lifestyle for our students.
* Involves student spending quality time with their families.

**WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS**

* Homework must have a clear purpose and be relevant to the needs of the student**. It should not jeopardise the right or need of a child to enjoy a balanced lifestyle.**
* The effectiveness of homework relies on the quality (not quantity) of tasks.
* Teachers should ensure that students fully understand tasks set for completion.
* Homework should reinforce work being done at school.
* The amount of homework should reflect the student’s age and stage of development with expectations differing across learning phases.
* Parents should be engaged in their children’s homework. However, it should not be up to parents to do the homework for the child. Homework should foster independence wherever possible.
* Homework can have the potential to create tension between parent and child. Under no circumstance is homework to result in the child being penalized academically.
* Homework has the potential to improve student’s time management skills and can foster a sense of personal responsibility and self-discipline

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# Responsibilities

**Executive Team**:

* Develop a Homework Policy and Procedure, in consultation with the school community
* Communicate the Homework Policy and Procedures to staff students, parents/caregivers
* Monitor and support teachers in the implementation of the Homework Policy.
* Ensure that homework is consistent with the school’s learning goals.
* Support the need for balance between homework and the many other commitments in students’ lives.

**Teachers:**

* Implement the school’s Homework Policy.
* Communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework to students and parents/caregivers.
* Acknowledge student effort in completing homework and provide timely and relevant feedback on achievement.
* Ensure resources and materials are easily accessible for students.
* Support students having difficulties with homework.
* Discuss with students and parents/caregivers any developing issues regarding a student’s homework.
* Discuss homework practices with colleagues.

# Budget

There is no set allocation to cover the costs associated with the implementation of this policy.

Should grades opt for diaries or other set resources, these will be billed to parents through their school fees where possible.

# Legislative/Professional Guidelines

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