



St Thomas More School Homework Policy

Rationale:

'As part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum' at St Thomas More School, 'homework is seen as one way of supporting and fostering life-long learning and connecting families with the learning of their children' (*School Advisory Policy Guide; Homework Guidelines*, Department of Education, Victoria).

Guidelines:

The setting of homework needs to take into consideration the personal and developmental needs of students and their need to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, sport and recreation and cultural pursuits.

At St Thomas More School there will be a shared understanding of the approach to homework, and all homework activities/tasks will relate to what is being taught in the classroom. These guidelines are in line with the guidelines from the Department of Education, Victoria (*School Policy Advisory Guide*).

The following points will guide the setting and implementing of homework at St Thomas More School:

- Homework is a requirement at all levels and for every student, and is seen as an integral part of the school curriculum.
- All homework provides students with the opportunity to practise skills and will reinforce concepts covered in class. This will also give parents an insight into student learning and progress.
- Homework requirements and expectations will be outlined to parents by class teachers at the beginning of the school year.
- Parents will be apprised of any changes to the form or focus of homework where appropriate.
- An emphasis on quality, not quantity, will be a pre-requisite for all homework tasks.
- A variety of tasks may be set for homework, as long as parents and students are fully aware of expectations.
- Homework may entail the completion of class work where the teacher deems it necessary.
- Homework will be set regularly.

Implementation:

The realisation of the St Thomas More School Homework Policy will include:

- The expectation that all homework is completed **by the students**, unless notification is received from parents.
- Homework expectations being clearly outlined at the beginning of the year.
- Changes to homework or additional activities (including the completion of unfinished class work) having a clear purpose and goals that will be communicated to parents and students.

- A breakdown of homework expectations F-6:
Foundation to Year 2: Students are encouraged to complete reading on a daily basis. Practise with and exposure to word lists, counting, number facts and related activities is also encouraged. Students may also occasionally have information to find out for Inquiry or to help with Show and Tell.

Year 3-4: The emphasis is on reading. Students are expected to read daily. They will also have other set tasks to complete that will focus on reading, spelling and mathematics. Homework should not exceed 30 minutes per school night.

Homework Prep-4 can:

- *Foster a sense of self discipline and responsibility*
- *Enable the consolidation of class work by practising important skills or gathering extra information and/or materials.*

Year 5-6: There is still a heavy emphasis on reading. Independent reading should happen daily. Other tasks will be set and will include a focus on spelling and mathematics. Homework should not exceed 35-40 minutes per school night.

Homework 5-6 can:

- *Build on the skills of independence, self-discipline and responsibility.*
- *Enable students to self monitor and regulate (time management and study skills).*
- *Extend and consolidate class work by practising and applying important skills*

- Guidelines will be made available to parents, advising how they can best assist their children in this area (Appendix 1)

Appendix 1

Parents can support students by:

- Providing a space that has good light and is free from distractions
- Having and fostering a positive and productive approach to homework
- Ensuring there is a balance between the times spent on homework, family time and recreational activities
- Reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday/regular routines (around the house, out and about, shopping, and at sports or other recreational activities)
- Talking to teachers about any concerns they have about homework
- Attending school events, information/education sessions for parents, productions and displays where their child is involved
- Signing their diary every day
- Discussing homework with their child
- Being aware of the homework expectations and following up with them
- Linking homework to other activities in the home environment, including cultural events and experiences, history and community events.

Appendix 2

Homework at St Thomas More School

Level →	Juniors		Middles	Seniors
Area of Focus ↓	Foundation-One	Two		
Reading	10 mins	10 mins	15 mins	15 mins (at least)
Word Work	Alphabet High Frequency Words 5-10 mins per night	Up to 8 spelling words 5-10 mins per night	Up to 8 spelling words 5 mins per night	Up to 10 spelling words 10 mins per night
Numeracy	OR (alternating*) Counting Number facts 5 mins per night	Number facts 5 mins per night	Number facts 5 mins per night	Number facts 10 mins per night
			Consolidation of current learning 5 mins per night	Consolidation of current learning 5 mins per night
Oral Language	Show and Tell once per term	Inquiry presentation practise/ Show and Tell once per term	Oral presentation practise once per term	Oral presentation practise once per term

*** week about or in specified blocks of time.**