

## St Ita's School Dutton Park

### Homework Policy (or Home Learning Policy)

At St Ita's, our Gospel Values teach children about the qualities that Jesus displayed and how we can strive to be more like Him. In the spirit of the Ursuline tradition "Serviam", we will follow the teachings of Jesus, respect the individual and the environment, strive for unity, and aim high in all we do. We believe that the essential focus of our school is the overall development of each child according to the needs and potential of the individual. The Hive of Learning teaches children the skills required to become a successful lifelong learner.

We believe the purpose for assigning home learning tasks is:

- To encourage opportunities for the students to review and reinforce learning that is initiated in the classroom
- To develop effective study habits
- To promote connectedness with the school through serving as one form of communication between school and home

We believe that homework should not cause family stress or jeopardise the right of children to enjoy a balanced lifestyle. Our approach supports the importance of family time, relaxation and play and acknowledges the varied outside of school hours' activities in which the students participate.

| <i>Year Level</i> | <i>Amount of time that you may expect your child to spend on home learning tasks</i>                         | <i>Learning Tasks</i>  |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Prep              | N/A  | Parents are encouraged to read to their children daily   |
| Years 1 – 2       | 15 mins daily Mon – Thurs  | Read to/with/by parents or caregivers<br>Preparations for oral presentations <i>e.g Show &amp; Tell</i><br>Review & reinforce sight words/spelling                                     |
| Year 3            | 20 mins daily Mon – Thurs  | Reading to/with/by parents or caregivers<br>Preparations for oral presentations <i>e.g Show &amp; Tell</i><br>Review & reinforce mathematical facts/spelling                           |
| Years 4 – 5       | Up to but no more than 2.5 hrs per week. Homework may be completed daily or over a weekly/fortnightly period | Independent daily reading<br>Review & reinforce mathematical facts/spelling<br>May include extension of class work & working on assignments which are carried over from classroom work |

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| Year 6   | Up to but no more than 3 hrs per week. Homework may be completed daily or over a weekly/fortnightly period | Independent daily reading<br>Review & reinforce mathematical facts/spelling<br>Homework will be directly related to class teaching and may include unfinished class work, orals, revision of content taught, research and assignment work<br>Work taught in class while students were at alternate learning activities |
| <p>A variety of online resources and tasks are used to reinforce skills (e.g. Lexiles, Spelling City, Study Ladder, Maths Online) and optional activities are also available for students via class blogs and the school website.</p> <p>Homework does not form part of the assessment and reporting process.</p>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Please note:</b></p> <p>If students are absent for 1 – 10 days of schooling, teachers do not have a responsibility to provide work for students to complete over these days of non-attendance.</p> <p>If students are absent for 10 – 110 days of schooling, then parents and teachers can negotiate the type and frequency of school work they should be expected to complete over this period of non-attendance.</p> |  |  |

### **Responsibilities of the students:**

- To always aim high and take pride in your work
- To take responsibility for all necessary materials required for homework tasks
- To bring completed homework to school by the due date
- To talk to your parents and teacher if you are having difficulty with your homework

### **Responsibilities of the teachers:**

- To encourage self-responsibility on the part of the students
- To communicate homework expectations to the students and parents
- To ensure that the resources required for homework tasks are easily obtained by the students
- To provide ways for parents to communicate with teachers about homework
- To discuss homework practices with year level colleagues to ensure consistency at each year level
- To ensure that no new concepts or skills are introduced through homework
- To select homework tasks that reinforce classroom learning
- To affirm positive attitudes to home learning
- To provide homework which meets the diverse learning needs of the students

### **Responsibilities of the principal:**

- To ensure that homework expectations are consistent with the school's homework policy
- To facilitate the communication process between school and home and support home/school partnerships in relation to homework
- To facilitate a two-yearly review of the school's homework policy

### **Responsibilities of the Parents/Caregivers:**

- To read to them, talk with them and involve them in tasks such as shopping, cooking, games and physical activities
- To encourage them to organise their time, gain independence in being responsible for their homework folders, diaries, etc. and being responsible for their learning
- To encourage them to read and take an interest in current events
- To help them to monitor and balance the amount of time spent on completing homework, watching television, using social media, playing computer games and engaging in physical and other recreational activities
- To affirm and celebrate their learning successes
- To communicate with the class teacher if challenges arise or additional homework may assist in their learning