

# St Elizabeth's School

## Homework Policy

St Elizabeth's is a Child Safe environment where all are engaged in keeping children safe.

### Homework

At St. Elizabeth's we believe that homework can form an important part of a child's education and an extension of the learning, which takes place at school. Homework will therefore be provided for students from Level 1 to Level 4. We respect that at certain times it may be difficult for families to provide a supportive environment for children to complete homework tasks. So, parents will be provided with an opportunity to commit to supporting their children on a semester by semester basis to complete homework tasks. (If a family experiences a situation where homework is not conducive to good learning, homework can be excused for a shorter time frame).

### Rationale

We believe that homework is useful when:

- It gives the children the opportunity to consolidate what they have learnt at school
- It allows for the fact that children learn and progress at different rates
- It increases children's confidence and enjoyment in learning
- It gives parents opportunities for positive and practical involvement
- It develops productive long term habits of learning and planning
- It gives students feedback
- Students engage willingly and are supported to achieve high expectations

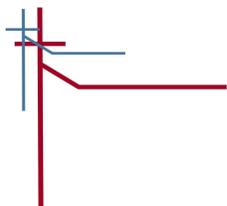
### Aims

The goals of homework provision at St Elizabeth's School are:

- to assist the child in developing responsibility
- to reinforce and enrich the child's daily learning process
- to develop research skills
- to develop the child's study habits and organisational skills
- to foster an enjoyment of learning
- to inform parents of the types of work being covered in the curriculum

This policy endeavors to ensure that:

- sound homework practices are set in place
- teachers and parents are clear about why we give homework
- parents are aware of the role that they play in the homework task
- students take responsibility for choosing their level of engagement
- homework is a positive experience for all involved



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### Types and frequency of Homework recommended by St.Elizabeth's

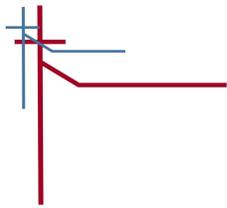
	READING		OTHER	
	Type	Frequency	Type	Frequency
Level 1 students	Parent reads to child <b>or</b> Parent and child read together <b>or</b> Child reads to parent	<b>10 minutes</b> each weeknight	Study Ladder (optional)	
Level 2 students	Parent reads to child <b>or</b> Parent and child read together <b>or</b> Child reads to parent <b>or</b> Silent reading	<b>10 minutes</b> each weeknight	Spelling Activities <b>and</b> Study Ladder (optional)	<b>10 minutes</b> each weeknight
Level 3 students	Quiet, independent reading	<b>15 minutes</b> each weeknight	StudyLadder	<b>15 minutes</b> each weeknight
Level 4 students	Quiet, independent reading	<b>20 -30 minutes</b> each weeknight	StudyLadder	<b>20 – 30 minutes</b> each weeknight

### Homework Procedures

- At the beginning of each year, parents will be asked to formally commit to providing a conducive environment for effective learning at home. In understanding and respecting that this is not always possible or reasonable for some families; families who choose not to commit to these conditions will be exempt from all homework expectations.

**\*\*\* *All families of children in Level 1 & 2 are expected to commit to supporting students in effective homework practices. This will allow children an opportunity to develop positive attitudes toward home learning and will be more likely to make an informed and appropriate choice when given the opportunity in Level 3 & 4.***

- When families commit to the practise of homework, students will be expected to:
  - complete the allocated homework tasks set to them by their teacher
  - teachers will be responsible for monitoring students homework tasks online via the use of Studyladder
  - parents are able to monitor their child's work on Studyladder by creating their own username and password
  - teachers will make adjustments to their students tasks to cater to their diverse learning needs



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3. Students are allocated homework tasks on a fortnightly basis and have ample time to complete their set tasks
4. Students with other out of school commitments have the opportunity to vary the times they complete their homework, provided they have completed/spent enough time on their online activities and reading

### A Family Commitment to Homework

Parents are asked to seriously consider the actual benefits homework provides for their child(ren).

If homework,

- is a source of great frustration and yields little, if any consolidation of learning done at school
- does not increase children's enjoyment in learning
- is not a practical opportunity for parents to provide positive and practical involvement (perhaps due to work or lifestyle commitments)
- is not productive in developing long term habits of learning and planning
- is not a practice students engage in willingly with or without supportive encouragement

**Then the practice of homework will not benefit your child(ren).** To avoid tension and anxiety, parents should consider not providing a formal commitment to the homework program.

### If Families Commit

Where families commit to providing a supportive and conducive learning environment at home; then Homework will become a joint responsibility between parents, children and teachers.

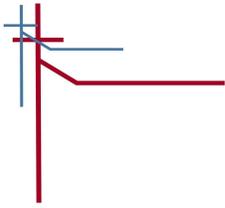
### Teachers' Responsibility:

The teachers' responsibilities in relation to homework are:

- to regularly set homework tasks which reinforce work taught at school
- to give direction to children regarding the completion of assigned tasks
- to provide feedback and monitor how the child is coping with the work assigned
- to check diaries weekly and communicate with parents if students are not following the homework contract
- to monitor students online through the teacher portal on Studyladder
- to set homework that caters to the diverse learning needs of students

### Parent's Responsibility:

- to provide encouragement and support
- to try to provide a comfortable area, away from the television for the child to complete homework tasks
- to support a homework routine in order to help the child adhere to a regular time, whether it is before or after dinner, so that a sound study habit is developed



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- to ensure that students remain within the time limits allocated for homework. Extra time may be allocated where a child is engaged and gaining enjoyment from the activity.
- to sign reading homework and /or diaries
- to communicate with the teacher if a child is unable to complete their homework for whatever reason, particularly if the student experienced difficulty with the tasks

### **Child's Responsibilities:**

Children are responsible for:

- reading for the prescribed amount of time each night
- completing online homework tasks to the best of their ability in the assigned time
- handing in their diaries every Friday
- to ask for help from a parent or teacher if the work is causing difficulties

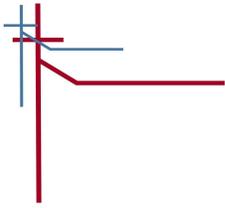
Where a child is experiencing difficulty with an area of learning contact will be made with parents so that an agreed plan of action can be implemented at home and at school.

### **If families do not commit**

For whatever reason families decide not to participate in homework practices, we recognize that this decision may have been made due to quite legitimate reasons relating to lifestyle. These families may well value the benefits of homework, but neither have the time or energy to provide a supportive learning environment. If this is the case, parents or children may decide that they will still take homework activities home but will not face consequences at school as a result of incompleteness or non-submission.

Homework will essentially become an optional exercise.

To support these families in encouraging children to become responsible, organized and capable of managing their time, ideas and suggestions will be published in the school newsletter that can be easily integrated into family life.



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### Homework Contract

#### Students Commitment Statement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_, would like to extend my learning by taking responsibility for my part in completing assigned homework tasks.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Parent/Carers Commitment Statement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree that as part of supporting our child's learning, we wish for our child to participate fully in the school's homework program.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

***OR***

I, \_\_\_\_\_ believe that our family can support the learning process at home without our child participating in the school homework program.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Ratified: 3rd March 2020 by Parish Education Board