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*The Catholic Education Commission Of Victoria Ltd (CECV) holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people are our central and fundamental responsibility of Catholic education. . This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel.***

***(***[***CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety***](http://cevn.cecv.catholic.edu.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=8589940582)***).***

**Homework Policy**

Rationale

At St Damian’s we believe that homework provides opportunities for students to consolidate their classroom learning, develop patterns for life-long learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning.

We believe that homework needs to:

* be manageable, purposeful and relevant to student’s needs
* develop the student’s independence as a learner
* be varied, challenging and related to class work
* be appropriate for each student's ability
* take into account student's other commitments, such as sport and home responsibilities
* provide an opportunity for students to develop time management skills
* strengthen communication and relationships between home and school

Guidelines

Students will be expected to complete homework tasks each week. Suggested average times for homework over the course of the week:

Suggested times:

* Prep: 60 minutes. Four sessions of 15 minutes
* Years One/Two: 80 minutes. Four sessions of 20 minutes
* Years Three/Four: 120 minutes. Four sessions of 30 minutes
* Years Five/Six: 180 minutes. Four sessions of 45 minutes

It may be more convenient for some families to complete homework tasks over the weekend.

If children are taking considerably longer than suggested, we ask that parents contact the class teacher immediately.

Year Level Homework Requirements may consist of:

Prep-Two

Reading: this includes the student’s take home book/material, library books and books children have at home. This can include parents reading to the child.

Literacy activities may include letter recognition and word work.

Mathematics activities may include counting and number facts.

Other curriculum areas may be included.

Three -Six

Reading includes the student’s take home book, library books and a variety of texts children have at home, such as newspapers and/or digital texts.

Where appropriate, Mathematics activities and learning of number facts may be assigned.

Homework may consist of one or more learning areas.

Role of the student

Be aware of their set homework tasks and take responsibility

Ensure all homework tasks are recorded in diaries (Years Three-Six)

Prioritise to allow sufficient time to complete homework tasks

Ensure all homework tasks are completed and returned to school by the due date

Role of the teacher

Ensure homework is appropriate to student’s ability

Ensure homework is relevant to the work covered in class

Provide detailed directions

Ensure homework is sighted, signed and where appropriate, feedback given to the student

Allow for flexibility: taking into account family schedule, holidays, school, local, national and world events

Communicate with parents regarding issues, such as non-completion

Value and acknowledge home learning and extra-curricular activities

Role of the parent

Take an active interest in your child's homework

Books may be read by the child, with the child and/or to the child

Parents are encouraged to discuss the text with the child

Encourage your children to read and take an interest in current events

Recognise the importance of numeracy through everyday life experiences e.g. cooking, following recipes, shopping

Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested

Be aware of the amount of homework set

Alert the school to any circumstances or extra-curricular activities which need to be taken into consideration

This Policy was ratified by the St Damian’s Education Board on August 19, 2014.

To be reviewed in July 2015