



HOMWORK GUIDELINES POLICY

PURPOSE:

From 2016 - 2018, St Brendan's staff have carefully analysed the case 'for' and the case 'against' setting formal Homework. Following this analysis and after a trial of 'Homework Guidelines' in 2017, these Guidelines have been finalised. The staff of St Brendan's, acknowledge the input of the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) in supporting the refinement of the guidelines. The Guidelines can be reviewed in the 'Policies and Procedures' file on the O Drive and on Google Drive. Parents are able to reference the guidelines on the school's website.

In short, the following statement harnesses staff beliefs about homework:

At St Brendan's, we believe:

- *Reading at home is a critical component to supporting school-home partnerships which encourage a connection between children's out of school learning to their in-school learning. Children become better readers, fine-tune their comprehension skills and learn so much from reading. Daily opportunities to read at home are of great benefit to children, most especially because they provide an opportunity for a child to read with a significant other in their life. The books a young child brings home (K and Year One) should be those that can be read independently (by themselves) and they may choose other books (e.g. library books) that parents/ carers can read to them.*
- *Every child's efforts with their home learning should be acknowledged and valued.*
- *The busy life of families should be respected and we understand there are times when children can't give time to homework tasks due to other activities and commitments.*
- *Homework should not cause tension within the family.*

Therefore, there will be NO formal homework set for Kindergarten - Year 2. Home reading is an expectation and families are encouraged to help their child with reading every day. In addition Kindergarten - Year 2 teachers may ask children to prepare an oral presentation or find out something about a topic they are going to discuss in class or bring in an item to support their learning. In Years 3 - 6 home reading continues to be an expectation along with some set activities which relate to topics already covered in class or initial research about a topic coming up in class.

Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss any concerns about homework with their child's teacher.

POLICY DATES:

Date of completion: April 2018

Date of next review: April 2020



HOMWORK GUIDELINES

<p>The Hive</p>	<p>Read! Read! And Read some more! Practical activities including; reading road signs, visiting local library, writing shopping lists. Work on developing gross/ fine motor skills.</p> <p>It is an expectation that there will be communication between home and school using the Seesaw App.</p>
<p>Kindergarten</p>	<p>Read! Read! And Read some more! Practical activities including; reading road signs, visiting local library, writing shopping lists etc. Children may bring home 'flashcard' games to assist with quick recall of sight words. Participate in playing board games which focus on turn taking, fair play and building resilience. Participate in 'creative play' and 'problem solving' activities.</p> <p>It is an expectation that there will be communication between home and school using the Seesaw App.</p>
<p>Year One</p>	<p>Read! Read! And Read some more! One 'family' based research activity; possible 'sight' word work. Focus on mastery of gross motor skills, such as: kicking/ throwing a ball, riding a bike etc. Engage in cooking and counting activities.</p> <p>It is an expectation that there will be communication between home and school using the Seesaw App.</p>
<p>Year Two</p>	<p>Read! Read! And Read some more! Read and discuss books which are themed around the concept of friendships and fair play. Focus on mastery of home tasks, such as: setting the table, tying shoelaces, making the bed etc. Focus on mastery of gross motor skills, such as: kicking/ throwing a ball, riding a bike. Focus on building a growth mindset, "I can learn how to..."</p> <p>It is an expectation that there will be communication between home and school using the Seesaw App.</p>
<p>Year Three</p>	<p>Keep reading (consider short Chapter books, comics, novels which are of interest to the child). One yearly research based project focussing on classroom theme. Continue to focus on growth mindset.</p> <p>It is an expectation that there will be communication between home and school using the Seesaw App.</p>
<p>Year Four</p>	<p>Reading for personal interest along with reading connected to concepts being taught in class. Activities based on research questions on one of the following: Religious Education or History/ Science/ Geography.</p>
<p>Years Five & Six</p>	<p>Reading for personal interest along with reading connected to concepts being taught in class. Two-three research activities per term to support upcoming classroom learning (usually in the KLA of Religious Education or History/ Science/ Geography).</p>