HOMEWORK POLICY STATEMENT:

*Regular homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process. It contributes to the development of sound study habits, involves the family in the child's development and promotes home school communication.*

PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK:

- Allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class.
- Provides students with an opportunity to plan and organize their time.
- Strengthens communication between home and school.
- Reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education.
- Acknowledges the child’s home and co-curricula activities.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES:

- Homework relates to and is part of current learning.
- Homework incorporates student’s home responsibilities and extra curricula activities such as clubs, sport and cultural activities.
- Homework varies according to age and will cater for individual learning needs. Some students require scaffolding to assist in explaining tasks to parents and organising an appropriate approach to completing these.
- Expectations regarding class homework are clearly and explicitly communicated to students and parents by teachers via diaries, regular class newsletters, etc.
- Parents and teachers have a responsibility to voice concerns about any aspect of homework.
- Parents can assist students with homework, but the ownership and responsibility to do the task belongs with the student.
- Children and parents receive regular feedback on homework as it is marked promptly and accurately.
- Appropriate consequences are used to manage students who repeatedly breach homework requirements.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK:

There are three main types of homework. A variety of the following is included to maintain student motivation and application.

1. Practice Exercises

Providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills including:

- Consolidation exercise eg. Number facts
- Practice for Mastery eg. Spelling words
- Revising information about a current topic
- Practising words or phrases learnt in a Language Other than English (LOTE)
- Co-curricula activities practise eg. instrumental, sport, cultural
- Essay writing
2. **Preparatory Homework**
Providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study including:

- Background reading eg. researching topics (reference or internet-based)
- Novel reading for class discussion/presentation
- Collecting items eg. geometric shapes

3. **Extension Assignments**
Encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- Writing eg. book review
- Making of designing something eg. an artwork
- Investigations eg. science, SOSE
- Researching eg. local news

**SUCCESSFUL HOMEWORK PRACTICE:**
It is important to recognise that students and family members need opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school. Homework is not all ‘sit and do’. It can encourage fun, family conversation, contribution to household chores and quality playtime at home. The following guidelines are provided to direct time spent on homework according to year levels:

- P-Year 3: 15 minutes duration
- Years 4 & 5: 20-25 minutes duration
- Years 6& 7: 30-40 minutes duration.

The Homework Grid below sets out to broaden the definition of work done at home to include an array of different and less sedentary activities-some set by school, some set by parents. Stella Maris Teaching Teams will adopt an adaptation of this Homework Grid model in recognition of the wide range of after school activities to:

- encourage positive family interactions.
- promote effective time management negotiated between home and school.
- provide relaxation time for students to pursue their own learning.

This Homework Grid will be filled out weekly and will provide a framework for teachers and parents to negotiate homework tasks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOMEWORK GRID SAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Homework and the Homework Grid, Ian Lillico)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. PRACTICE EXERCISES</th>
<th>2. PREPARATORY HOMEWORK</th>
<th>3. EXTENSION ASSIGNMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number Facts, Spelling Activities</td>
<td>Read a variety of books including school books.</td>
<td>Project Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHYSICAL ACTIVITY / Sport Training</th>
<th>HOUSEWORK (compulsory every night)</th>
<th>BE READ TO by another family member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEACH YOUR PARENTS</th>
<th>PLAY A GAME</th>
<th>SHOPPING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Something you have learnt</td>
<td>with a family member</td>
<td>with parents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEDITATION/Spiritual/Relaxation</th>
<th>USE COMPUTER</th>
<th>ART / CULTURAL / Music/Drama/Speech/Dance/Instrumental Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
HOMEWORK TIPS FOR PARENTS:

- Make homework time as enjoyable as possible. When sharing a book make yourself comfortable, be involved in the story and enjoy yourself. Don’t make reading a test.
- Establish a predictable routine. If homework is done at the same time each night, getting started is usually less of an issue.
- Establish a good working environment for students. Make sure they have a quiet area away from distractions that is well lit and with good ventilation. A table or desk makes a good work space.
- Encourage children to work reasonably quickly and efficiently. Have a set time limit which they should stick to.
  - P-Year 3: 15 minutes duration
  - Years 4 & 5: 20-25 minutes duration
  - Years 6 & 7: 30-40 minutes duration.

  A little work each night is more productive than packing it all into one weekly session.

- Encourage children to become organised by planning homework around their co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. A weekly planner or dairy will help older students to organise themselves.
- Keep explanation simple and practical when helping your child. If you become upset or frustrated and the atmosphere becomes tense, stop helping.
- Be realistic and don’t expect to solve all homework difficulties. When in doubt or if your child is spending over and above the suggested time allocation on homework activities send a note to your child’s teacher informing them about the problem. They will appreciate being informed.