

# Homework Policy



*At St. Joseph's we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. At all times, the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all children at St. Joseph's will be the primary focus of care and decision-making, with particular attention paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.*

## Rationale

At St. Joseph's we believe that homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Whilst recognising that children are involved in many extra-curricular activities we feel that homework gives the child the opportunity to organise a personal timetable, which helps to develop the child's organisational abilities and study patterns for future years. For this reason we ask parents, within reasonable limits, to allow their child to decide for themselves when homework should be done. Parents and teachers can assist a child with homework by establishing a homework timetable. After this the responsibility belongs to the child.

## Aims

Homework at St. Joseph's aims to develop purposeful study habits and time management, revise and reinforce the content of the work being undertaken in the classroom, involve parents in their child's learning and to develop research skills.

## Implementation

Formal homework on a regular basis is confined to Years 3- 6. Children in Prep-Year 2 will take home reading books to read to / share with an adult. This should be seen as a worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

Homework will consist of activities that are reinforcing and revising work covered in class. Therefore activities should not cause a stressful situation for the parent or child.

At different periods throughout the year research and project work will form the basis of homework and these will replace the weekly homework.

## Guidelines

- Each child in Grades 3-6 will be assigned weekly homework.
- **As a general rule, we do not set online homework.**
- The amount of homework will vary according to age and learning needs.
- Homework set will be a piece of English, a piece of Mathematics, spelling practice and reading.
- Homework should be seen as a continuation of the classroom program.

- Teachers will be responsible for correction of each child's work.
- Reading should occur on a nightly basis.
- On occasion, the teacher may also set additional research to complement a class-based project, which may require internet access
- Family commitments or other factors should be taken into consideration.

### **Time Allocations for Homework**

- **Prep:** Daily reading of take-home book.
- **Years 1 and 2:** 10- 20 minutes per night reading home reader
- **Year 3 and 4:** 20 minutes per night plus 20 minutes of reading
- **Year 5 and 6:** 30 minutes per night plus 20 minutes of reading

### **Diaries**

Year 3-6 students to have school diaries, signed by parents and teachers, used as communication between parents and teachers.

### **Expectations of Parents**

- Provide a suitable, quiet place to carry out homework; guide the child in organizing his/her time.
- Encourage the child to develop a routine so as to always have the work completed on time.
- Encourage the child to work independently.
- Support the teacher's efforts.
- Communicate with the teacher when necessary.
- Check and sign any work to be returned to school. Please do not sign any work, which is not up to standard, poorly presented or incorrectly completed.
- That appropriate writing implements are kept at home. (Eg. Grey lead pencils, pens, rulers, red pens or pencils, dictionary and glue) to complete the homework.
- Parents provide a written note if their child is unable to complete their work.
- Parents to sign homework diaries

### **Expectations of Students**

- Standard of work should be consistent with the level expected in the class. eg. Correct letter formation, borders, correct writing implements used
- Each child is to complete its homework with as much independence as possible.
- Have homework diaries signed.

### **Expectations of Teachers**

- Homework is prepared and distributed by the teacher weekly, unless otherwise advised
- Homework is collected and corrected.
- If homework is not completed by the due date it is expected that the teacher will follow up the matter to its completion.
- If the homework procedure is disrupted or cancelled for any reason students will be notified.

We realise that families are very busy from time to time and that children are sometimes not able to complete their homework. If this is the case a note from a parent or guardian will be sufficient for a child to be excused for not having completed their homework.

Teachers will expect students to complete homework during recess on a Friday, when a note has not been received by parents.

### **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of a three-year review cycle.

Compiled by: Michelle Moore and Martin Earl  
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