



# St Joseph's Primary School

## Home Learning Policy

Developed September 2015 - reviewed and updated 2017 and 2019

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### The purpose of home learning

The purpose of home learning at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is two-fold:

- to seek to develop in our students the necessary skills to establish effective study habits, including self-discipline and time management skills, for life-long learning
- to provide an opportunity for parents to connect with what their children are doing at school.

The underlying premise of our policy is that:

*Successful schools see education as a collaborative process between the student, parents and the school, and consider parents to be 'partners' in their child's education.*

Australian Council of Educational Research, 2014

We see the development of this policy as being an opportunity to further embed our Core Values of Community, Compassion, Respect and Stewardship, into all that we do at St Joseph's.

### Sources of input in the development of this policy

We have structured our Home Learning Policy, utilising elements of feedback from research, staff beliefs about the efficacy of homework and feedback around the expectations of our parent community.

The research overwhelmingly states that at primary school level, homework has little or no academic benefits (Horsley and Walker, 2013 & 2016 <https://www.agsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Horsley-Walker.pdf>).

We acknowledge, however, together with many Stage Three parents that homework **can have the potential to** help prepare students in terms of organisational skills, for their transition to high school.

In addressing these considerations, we at St Joseph's believe that home learning needs to reflect a balance between its benefits and the impact on family life and leisure, cultural and other pursuits that are proven to have a positive impact on student well-being.

### Definition of Home Learning \*

Homework is broadly defined as:

*Student learning activities conducted outside of school hours, as assigned by the classroom teacher.*

(Cambridge English Dictionary)

\* We have renamed homework to Home Learning to reflect the belief that students are 'learning' not merely 'working' when thinking, talking, playing and reflecting. Home learning encompasses sport and other cultural activities as well as family time and discussion when many forms of learning occur\*

## What are the expectations on completion of home learning tasks?

At St Joseph's School, we will set formal home learning tasks for our students, however we will not enforce the completion of those tasks. Parents may consult with their child's teacher in order to reduce the amount of set home learning tasks or request an exemption for that year or on a term by term basis to coincide with other learning pursuits that may be occurring in a child's life.

## What will be set for home learning?

Home learning at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is set according to the following guidelines.

Stage	Reading time per night	Home Learning	<u>Suggested</u> Home learning time per week *does not include reading
<b>Early Stage 1</b> (Kindergarten)	5 minutes	<b>Reading</b> to with and by parents, practicing high frequency words Preparation for Let's Talk sessions or work related to Learning Units in KLA's <b>Optional:</b> maths games	20 minutes
<b>Stage 1</b> Years 1 and 2	10 minutes	<b>Reading</b> Literacy-based activities- responding to texts and/or word study work Numeracy-based activities-Maths counting and number games and challenges Occasionally: Religious Education/integrated unit home-link activities <b>Optional:</b> maths challenge tasks	30 minutes
<b>Stage 2</b> Years 3 and 4	15 minutes	<b>Reading</b> Literacy-based activities- responding to texts and/or word study work Numeracy-based activities to practice and embed number facts Occasionally: Religious Education/integrated unit home-link activities <b>Optional:</b> maths challenge tasks	60 minutes
<b>Stage 3</b> Years 5 and 6	20 minutes	<b>Reading</b> Literacy-based activities- responding to texts and/or word study work Numeracy-based activities to practice and embed number facts Religious Education/integrated unit home-link activities <b>Optional:</b> maths challenge tasks	80 minutes

## What will be given as home learning?

- Reading, including a weekly reading log
- Literacy-based activities such as responding to texts and word study work
- Numeracy-based activities to practice and embed number facts and concepts
- Occasionally: Religious Education or Integrated Unit home-link tasks
- Optional: tasks from Google classroom pages such as maths challenges

## When will home learning be set?

Home learning will begin in Week Two and end in Week Nine of each term. This excludes our St Joseph's Wellbeing Week, where no home learning tasks will be given. Home-link tasks may sometimes be also given in Week One, where necessary.

## How much help should parents give?

It is expected that most students should be able to complete the majority of their home learning independently. Home learning tasks set across the grade contain differentiated levels of difficulty, and teachers will take into account those students who have special educational needs (continued overleaf).

Whilst homework will generally be set at a level that students can complete independently, this should not discourage parents from taking an active role in supporting their child at home. Students have individual learning needs and will need varying levels of assistance. Home Reading with a parent is always encouraged. When students are independent readers discussion with parents about their texts is encouraged.

We acknowledge the research, which states that the skills of independent, self-directed learning can be developed when students receive organisational and other assistance from their parents. (Horsley and Walker, 2013).

The following website provides some very useful tips for parents who are seeking to support their children in developing organisational skills around homework:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/eight-great-ways-to-get-your-kids-organised-for-school>

## When will this policy be reviewed?

This policy is a reviewed and edited version of the original Homework Policy from September 2015. This version of the policy was reviewed by staff in 2019.

## Guidelines for teachers

- Set realistic, purposeful, grade appropriate home learning tasks
- Maintain a clear progression of home learning by using the St Joseph's School Home Learning Grid
- Provide feedback including signing and dating completed home learning.
- Provide clear instructions as to how to complete home learning.
- Make clear the completion day and date for home learning.
- Supply home learning book to record home learning.
- Ensure that home learning is not set in Wellbeing Week of each term

## Guidelines for parents

- Read and sign the home learning grid each week
- Take an active interest in your child's home learning and support a positive approach to home learning.
- Provide a dedicated place and resources for home learning and study, if possible.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of home learning or your child's approach to home learning.
- Encourage your child to read and take an interest in current events.
- Alert the school to any domestic circumstances or extra curricular activities that may need to be taken into consideration when home learning is being set or marked.
- Oversee correct completion of home learning.

## Guidelines for students

- Communicate with parents to inform them of home learning
- Attempt to organise their time so that they can complete their home learning in the given timeframe, taking into consideration extra-curricular activities
- Consult with their teacher if they are having difficulty with a particular home learning task, well before the due date
- Submit home learning on time