Homework Policy

Rationale

The St Joseph’s School Homework Policy recognises that homework that is authentic, meaningful and engaging is an integral part of a child’s education. It promotes a relationship between school and home and aides in the communication of a child’s academic growth, while reinforcing basic skills and concepts that have been taught in class as well as organisation and time management.

We believe that regular homework establishes good study habits and can have a significant impact on later life, maturity and learning.

It is acknowledged that there is a need to achieve balance between work, play and family activities. As such, homework at St Joseph’s is intentionally focused and specific to current learning.

Values

St Joseph’s School encourages the development of a holistic student through:
- Parental Support
- Communication
- Independent learning
- Individual achievements
- Time management

Policy Statement

In the spirit of cooperation, understanding and communication, homework exists to develop a collaborative educational atmosphere at school and in the home. Homework is seen as an essential part of a child’s education and is compulsory for all students. We believe homework positively contributes to each child’s holistic development and encourages effective organisation and good study habits.

Consequences

- The Homework Guidelines Document supports this policy.
- Both Policy and Guidelines should be viewed as connected documents.
- Although there are consistent expectations about the quality, quantity and organisation of homework, the class teachers will be responsible to provide the relevant structures around homework delivery.

Associated Documents


Date of Issue: August 2018  Date of Review: August 2021

Mrs Melissa Fraser  Mrs Melissa Hobson
St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School Board  St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School
Chairperson  Acting Principal
St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School

 Homework Guidelines

 Joey’s
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Time Allocations</th>
<th>Homework Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>10 mins per night</td>
<td>Daily Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Parent to Student - Personal Choice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1:</td>
<td>Daily Reading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Student to Parent - Levelled Reading Pack &amp; Parent to Student - Personal Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2:</td>
<td>Daily Reading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Sight words introduced</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By the start of Term 3, all students take home 1 reading pack per week and complete a reading log.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All students have books and words based on individual reading ability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 1</td>
<td>15 mins per night</td>
<td>Daily Reading - Levelled Reading Pack &amp; Personal Choice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sight Words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core Spelling Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>15 mins per night</td>
<td>Daily Reading - Levelled Reading Pack &amp; Personal Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>English revision based on DiPL—weekly focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction of maths revision task linked specifically to weekly learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>20 mins per night</td>
<td>Daily Reading - Levelled Reading Pack, Personal Choice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>English revision based on DiPL—weekly focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tables of the Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>30 mins per night</td>
<td>Daily Reading - Personal Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>English revision based on DiPL—weekly focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 6 - A focus on subject specific homework and assignment type tasks for Semester 2 in preparation for secondary schooling.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Time Allocations and Types of Homework

Practices

At St Joseph’s, homework will be set weekly - distributed Monday and submitted Friday. This allows for children and families to structure their time to allow for other afternoon/evening commitments. The reading and working time periods need not be completed sequentially but may be completed at alternate times. For example, a student might complete his/her working time before dinner and his/her reading time just before bed.
Expectations of Parents

- Provide a suitable, quiet place to carry out homework; guide the child in organising 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 (where expected).
- Support the student and teacher’s efforts.
- Communicate with the teacher with any concerns or questions regarding homework.
- 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 not completed.
- Ensure appropriate resources to complete homework are available at home (e.g. pens, pencils, rulers etc.)
- Provide a written note if their child is unable to complete their homework.

Expectations of Students

- Standard of work should be consistent with the level expected in the class. e.g. correct letter formation, borders, correct writing implements used.
- Each child is to complete their homework with as much independence as possible.
- Have homework signed off by parents as required.
- Complete homework and submit within expected timeframes.

Expectations of Teachers

- Homework is prepared and distributed by the teacher weekly, unless otherwise advised. e.g. school carnivals etc
- Homework will be corrected with the class so that relevant and timely feedback can be provided.
- If homework is not completed within expected timeframes, the teacher will follow up this matter with the student/parent.
- If the homework procedure is disrupted, altered or cancelled for any reason, students and parents will be notified.
Commencement and Conclusion of Homework each Term:

- Start Week 2 of each term.
- Conclude at end of second last week of term.

Consequences

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.

As homework is designed to develop strong study habits and a responsibility for learning, we believe that there needs to be accountability measures in place to support the completion of homework. When homework is not being completed teachers are to conference with students in joint problem solving. Teachers are to encourage the completion of homework, establish a common understanding of what is expected and offer any support that may be required. If students continue to not complete tasks within agreed timeframes, students are to be referred to the school Homework Club (Monday lunchtimes) to encourage completion of homework.

Children and parents are encouraged to recognise that they are accountable for the completion of homework. If children are experiencing difficulty in completing tasks in a reasonable time or if particular family circumstances impede the completion of homework then parents are asked to communicate this to the teacher. Where a student consistently fails to complete homework tasks the classroom teacher will ask for a meeting with parents to discuss options for support.