



St Joachim's Primary School – Homework Policy

Preamble

The St Joachim's Homework Policy has been reviewed and developed through a consultation process that involved parent, teacher and student surveys. It is consistent with the school's Vision for Learning and Teaching and the current research and findings.

Currently, there is little consensus in the research as to whether homework raises student achievement, however, most researchers agree that there is little to no evidence to suggest that homework lifts the academic performance of Primary school aged students.

A common consensus found in the research is that a small amount of homework (age appropriate time allocation) was better than too much. Research concluded that there are some activities that students can complete at home that have a positive impact on both learning and wellbeing.

These activities include:

- Home reading of high standard literature and for enjoyment.
- Activities that promote automaticity in literacy and numeracy skill development.
- Activities that are connected to work being covered in class.

Rationale

At St Joachim's, we believe that there is strong evidence and general agreement across our community that homework at the Primary School level has little impact on academic performance. However, we recognise that it may play a transitional role in preparing students for secondary school through developing the skills of time management, perseverance and organisation to enable them to continue to be lifelong learners.

We believe that homework should not negatively impact on the health and wellbeing of the student or their family and that the time allocation be in accordance with the age and development of the student.

Aims

The aims of homework at St Joachim's are:

- To complement and reinforce classroom learning.
- To foster and support students as lifelong learners through time management, perseverance and organisation skills.
- To strengthen home-school connections.
- To foster and support the wellbeing of the students and their families.
- To foster an enjoyment of reading.

We believe that homework is useful when:

- Reading is a major focus.
- It reinforces the learning in the classroom.
- Allocated time spent on homework is appropriate for the age and development of students.
- It is balanced with a range of recreational and family activities.
- It develops productive life-long habits of learning.
- It is undertaken in partnership between home and school.

Implementation

School Procedures

- Parents are advised of homework expectations at the beginning of each school year and are provided with a copy of the school's Homework Policy and will be directed to the Homework Policy on the school website.
- Parents will be informed of homework expectations through class communication, class newsletters and parent/teacher meetings.
- Homework should not entail a large correction load for teachers.
- Teachers should provide timely feedback and support.
- Homework tasks must be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum.

Roles and Responsibilities

The School Leadership Team's responsibilities are to:

- Develop a school homework policy, in consultation with the school community including parents, teachers and students.
- Distribute the homework policy to staff, students and parents and make it available on the school website and in the Parent and Teacher Handbooks.
- Ensure that homework expectations are consistent with the school's Homework Policy and is implemented throughout the school.

- Facilitate a review of the school's Homework Policy at the scheduled time for review.

The teachers' responsibilities in relation to homework are to:

- Ensure that homework expectations are consistent with the school's homework policy.
- Monitor homework tasks set, which includes reading logs/journals.
- Provide feedback to students.
- Provide feedback to parents where required.

The students' responsibilities in relation to homework are to:

- Read for the prescribed amount of time each night and record this in their reading logs/journals.
- Be fully engaged with the homework task set.
- Use technology responsibly.
- Bring completed homework to school by the due date.
- Ask their parents or teacher for help if they are having difficulty.

The Parents' responsibilities in relation to homework are to:

- Affirm positive attitudes towards homework.
- Read to and with their children for enjoyment.
- Talk with their children about the content covered in class.
- Involve their children in learning opportunities during everyday household routines, boardgames and physical activity.
- Celebrate their children's learning successes.
- Talk to the teachers about any concerns they may have.

Homework Expectations

Reading Homework

Parents and students are responsible for:

- Reading every night, at every year level.
- Recording titles of books read.
- Providing a wide range of reading opportunities daily – reading to; reading with; listening to (the child, an older sibling, adult or audio book).
- Selecting appropriate texts as well as a wide range of different texts.
- Discussing personal reading goals.

| Year Level | Reading | Possible Other Tasks | Allocated Time |
|--------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Prep – Yr 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading (to, with and by) • levelled/decodable readers • library books • books of interest • chapter books (novels) • audio books | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects of personal interest (time limited eg 1 per term) • Structured oral presentations eg show and tell | 10-15 minutes per night |
| Yr 3-6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading to, with and by • Independent reading • Reading aloud • Library books • Chapter books (novels) • Audio books | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects of personal interest (time limited eg 1 per term) • Basic number facts • Flip Classroom (lesson videos, information to build prior knowledge before focused lesson) • Online tasks eg essential assessment, studyladder linked to classroom program | 15-20 minutes per night plus reading |

Monitoring and Evaluation

During the course of the school year, teachers will be required to review their homework practices to ensure alignment with the school's Homework Policy.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.