



HOMework POLICY

Reviewed: 2017
Due for Review: 2018

RATIONALE

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Purposeful and appropriate homework activities and the interest shown by parents, have the potential to improve students' learning. Homework can strengthen the link between home and school by involving parents in a meaningful way in their children's education.

For these reasons, St Jude's School values homework and supports it as an integral part of the school's educational program.

We believe that all of the participants (teacher, parent, student) in a child's education have some responsibility in the homework program. Therefore, good communication between all parties is important.

We recognise that there are many demands on family life and we believe in the importance of all children having time to enjoy personal and family activities. Therefore, time spent on homework should be reasonable and flexible.

PRINCIPLES

- To reinforce and further develop the students' understandings, skills and knowledge for literacy, numeracy and other learning areas.
- To complete or complement learning taking place in the classroom.
- To develop habits which enable students to become active, independent and lifelong learners.
- To develop the education partnership between home and school.

PROCEDURES

- Parents will be advised of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year at the Parent Information Sessions and be provided with a copy of the school's homework policy.
- The development of a positive attitude towards reading and a love of reading through adult/child interaction is considered the highest priority in any school/home activity. Therefore, all students are expected to spend time reading each evening.
- Homework is set at all levels, with emphasis on practice of skills in literacy and numeracy.

Year 1 and Year 2:

Homework will:

- Consist of daily reading to, with and by parents or older siblings

- Be an extension of class work – practising skills or gathering extra information or materials. Written homework is set for the children in Year 1 and Year 2 on a regular basis – at the discretion of the teachers.
- Be approximately 15 minutes per day (average of one hour per week) and will not be set on weekends or during holidays.

Year 3 and Year 4:

Homework will:

- Include daily independent reading
- Include extension of class work and projects
- Be approximately 15-30 minutes per day (average of one hour per week) and will not be set on weekends or during holidays.

Written homework will become more demanding in both time and effort required as the children progress from Years 3 to 6.

Year 5 and Year 6:

Homework will:

- Include daily independent reading
- Include extension of class work and projects
- Be approximately 30-45 minutes per day (average of two hours per week) and will not be set on weekends or during holidays.

Homework tasks will usually be set on a daily basis in Year 1 and Year 2, Monday to Thursday. In Years 3, 4, 5, and 6, homework may also be set on a weekly or fortnightly basis, with tasks set on Mondays and presented on Friday mornings.

Short-term projects may be set for homework, provided that:

- Clear guidelines are provided in writing
- Preparation for the work is undertaken in class
- Students are able to complete work independently
- Resources are readily available
- Students are taught the necessary skills for presenting projects.

Types of homework:

Homework should:

- Be appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- Be interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open-ended
- Be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- Be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- Be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

Types of homework that meet these requirements include:

- Practice exercises – providing students with opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:
- Completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics – memorisation of tables
- Practising spelling words
- **Practising words or phrases learnt in a language other than English**

- Reading for pleasure
- Writing essays and other creative tasks
- Practising and playing musical instruments
- Practising physical education skills.
- General family communication and life skills

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Teachers have a responsibility to:

- Set homework tasks that are relevant, purposeful and achievable
- Consider the interest level of the task
- Ensure that students know what is expected of them
- Help students develop effective organisational skills and habits through consistent use and monitoring of diaries
- Correct and give personal feedback to students about their work
- Contact parents if homework is regularly not completed or is unsatisfactory.

Students have a responsibility to:

- Complete homework when set, and submit homework on time
- Ask for clarification if necessary
- Ensure that all necessary books and materials are taken home
- Use diaries (Years 1 - 6) and have them signed regularly by parents.

Parents have a responsibility to:

- Provide time and a space so that homework can be completed satisfactorily
- Take an active interest in children's homework by encouraging, guiding and advising them
- Contact the teacher if homework is beyond the child's capacity to complete in reasonable time
- Support the school's policy on homework
- Regularly sign the child's homework or diary
- Monitor the children's reading.

Care should be taken to ensure that undue pressure is not placed on students and that a balance is maintained between the demands of study and recreational pastimes. This can generally be achieved through good organisation and planning, and effective study habits.

It should be noted that just as children work at different rates and abilities at school, this will apply in relation to homework. What one child might complete in 5 minutes, may take another child 30 minutes to complete.

Homework should also be seen in context. This policy outlines what we would consider minimum requirements and it applies particularly for the benefit of those children who cannot develop a routine of their own. Children who enjoy reading for leisure and enjoy doing projects should not be limited by these minimum requirements and should be fully encouraged at home in their pursuit of areas of interest and the search for knowledge.

All students will use school diaries or school reading logs. Diaries provide a means of regular communication between parents and the school and may include details about homework.

If students are on holidays or sick, homework will not necessarily be set by the classroom teacher, but this will be at the discretion of teacher and parent.

Teachers at each level will establish consequences for students not completing homework. The work will be expected to be completed in the student's own time at the discretion of the level teachers. Failure by students to complete homework on a regular basis, will be followed up with parents.

Work not completed in class time may be sent home for completion.