

## **St Joseph's, Kingswood Homework Policy 2013**

The school has developed this policy in consultation with parents/caregivers and teachers. Encouragement and support from parents/caregivers as well as teachers helps students to have a positive, productive approach to homework.

Homework is perceived as one opportunity for communication about student learning between school and home. For the teacher it is an opportunity to organise for students learning, which takes place outside of the classroom. For the student these opportunities reinforce learning and help develop skills such as inquiry, collaboration and time management. Homework can assist in establishing a habit of self-discipline, independence, concentration and reflection. Our school holds an opinion that it provides parents/caregivers with opportunities to see and discuss examples of their child's learning.

In order to achieve this purpose Homework at St Joseph's, Kingswood aims to be:

1. An effective learning activity designed to be within the students zone of developmental learning; this means it is appropriate for each student's age and ability.
2. Simple in its communication. It has to be comprehended by the student in the home environment. It takes into account technology and its availability in the home, (such as email, class blogs, 'Matheletics' and Internet Research), so students without access are not disadvantaged.
3. Manageable. Students value Homework more if teachers and parents value it. Providing students with feedback about their efforts is important yet teachers should consider the time impact on their workload as teacher. It is suggested teachers work collaboratively to design Homework activities and consider the importance of both student feedback and time management when preparing Homework. It also takes into account that students have other commitments, such as sport, music and dance, as well as home responsibilities.

### **The basic varieties of homework at St Joseph's**

1. Practice Exercises: helping students remember newly acquired skills such as using mathematical tables and writing and reading for a purpose.
2. Preparatory Activities: requiring students to source and read background information to prepare them for future lessons on a specific subject, such as reading an article in preparation for group work in HSIE.
3. Extension Assignments: encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually, imaginatively and at times collaboratively. Assignments may include writing a review, researching specific news events or retrieving specific information items using the internet.

## Homework guidelines

Homework normally commences in Week 3 of Term 1 for Years 1 – 6. There is no Homework for students in the first and last week of other Terms. During Term 4 the teachers set no formal Homework after Week 7.

## Homework for Kindergarten

In general, Kindergarten (Early Stage 1 / ES1) are not expected to complete formal Homework during Term 1, however, there are things that can be done at home to help make the most of what is occurring at school, e.g. reading to children and discussing involvement in family activities. Such experiences assist the development of literacy skills and models good problem solving. During Term 2 Homework tasks are expected and will be explained to parents in the Kindergarten Newsletter at the appropriate time.

## Homework for Years 1-2

In Years 1 and 2 formal homework is ordinarily set. For example, students may be asked to complete simple computations, copy letters or words and complete an activity sheet. It will generally not be more than 1 hour per week.

## Homework for Years 3-4

Homework in Years 3 and 4 is varied and students are expected to work more independently, however, teachers provide guidance and assistance for students experiencing difficulties completing their homework. The Homework is designed to develop knowledge and skills in English, Mathematics and Human Society and its Environment; it can be set across all Key Learning Areas (KLAs). The time a student commits to Homework in Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4) ranges from 60 to 90 minutes per week.

## Homework for Years 5-6

Homework in Years 5 and 6 is varied and students are expected to work increasingly independently, however, teachers provide guidance and assistance to students experiencing difficulties completing their work. The Homework is designed to develop knowledge and skills in English, Mathematics and Human Society and its Environment: it can be set across all Key Learning Areas (KLAs). The time a student commits to Homework in Stage 3 (Year 5 and 6) ranges from 2 to 3 hours per week.

## What can parents/caregivers do to help?

- Take an active interest in appreciating your child's Homework.
- Support your child in setting aside a time and place each day for Homework.
- Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing work as requested, and be aware of the amount of homework set.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or your child's approach to homework. Alert the school of circumstances or extra curricular activities, which may need to be taken into consideration when Homework is being set or marked.
- Encourage reading and share your interest in current events.