



St. Joseph's Homework Guidelines

Rationale:

As a community striving for excellence in teaching and learning we believe that home learning experiences are important and that by working in partnership with parents we can provide relevant homework which assists each child to reach his/her potential.

We believe that students need to have a balanced lifestyle which includes time for family, sport and cultural pursuits. Homework must not be a cause of stress or upset for children or parents. Home tasks, other than reading, will always be considered non compulsory. Children will not be punished if homework is not completed.

At all times homework must be relevant and differentiated to suit the range of learning needs in the school. Homework may therefore look different each term, in each year group and for each child.

All children (K-6) should be reading each night. We strive to cultivate a passion for reading. This will enable our students to become highly effective readers who see reading as a foundational skill to learning in all contexts. This opportunity for reading includes the child reading and being read to by an adult. We also actively encourage the practice of 'reading together' that is adult and child together.

HOMEWORK IN KINDERGARTEN, YEAR 1 and YEAR 2

In Kindergarten and Year 1, homework involves your child reading books that they have already read and worked on with their teacher. Listening to your child read these books will be an opportunity for you to encourage them and celebrate with them their success. It is by reading books several times that children become better readers as their brain recognises the patterns of letters in words, hears the way words go together and captures the meaning of the story.

Reading quality literature from the library to and/or with your child is also a means by which you can support them with their reading. It is an opportunity to let them hear the structures of books, hear and see new and unusual words and gain ideas for their own writing.

A Reading Log is given to each child to record the books they read each night to encourage this reading. Awards for reading targets will be given to children to reinforce good reading habits.

Some students, as required, will be asked to practise high frequency words as this will support them in the quick identification of these words and in the quick recall needed for writing. Suggestions for games and activities will be shared with parents.

Handwriting practice may also be expected by classroom teachers at times. Ensure that your child is forming their letters correctly as described on the accompanying guidesheet.

Counting with your child in real life situations will support the development of numeracy skills. There are many opportunities throughout the day that addition and subtraction, grouping and patterning skills are needed. Embrace these opportunities as a home learning task to support your child's numeracy development. More information about numeracy home activities are shared during parent numeracy workshops held throughout the year.

Throughout the year, teachers will prescribe other home tasks from Key Learning Areas, that supports the learning occurring in the classroom. These tasks may be presented in a homework grid whereby students and parents select those relevant to interests and time available. Stand alone tasks will be communicated to you through Skoolbag or notes.

Students in Year 1 who are accessing Reading Recovery or EMU are expected to complete homework for these interventions rather than home tasks set for the class. Students participating in Speech Therapy or Occupational Therapy are encouraged to complete work set by these professionals.

The time suggested for homework for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students is approximately 10 - 20 minutes daily.

HOMEWORK IN YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4

In Year 3 and Year 4, homework involves reading a variety of texts including quality novels, picture books, magazines and digital texts, covering all areas of the curriculum. Teachers will provide guidance and assistance to students in choosing suitable reading material which can be accessed through the library, the classroom or online through sites and Google classroom.

Throughout the year, teachers will prescribe other home tasks from Key Learning Areas, including Religion that supports the learning occurring in the classroom. Tasks will be relevant to class learning and teaching activities and no task will be given for homework that the students do not have some prior experience of. These tasks will be communicated through Google classroom.

Parents are encouraged to provide opportunities for their children to build fluency through the quick recall of number and table facts for 5 minutes each day.

***The time suggested for homework for Year 3 and Year 4 students should not exceed 30 minutes daily.
This time frame includes at least 15 minutes of reading.***

HOMEWORK IN YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6

In Year 5 and Year 6, homework is an important part in developing good time management skills. Each student is given a diary to record homework, events, information and messages to and from parents.

Homework involves reading a variety of texts including quality novels, picture books, magazines, visual information, maps, tables, charts, diagrams, animations and digital texts, covering all areas of the curriculum.

Homework activities will be drawn from all Key Learning Areas. Tasks will be relevant to class learning and teaching activities and no task will be given for homework that the students do not have some prior experience of. These home tasks may be a continuation of work commenced during school time through Google Classroom. The expectation is that students spend time working on these tasks at home.

Parents are encouraged to provide regular opportunities for their children to build fluency through the quick recall of number and table facts for 5-10 minutes each day.

***The time suggested for homework for Year 5 & Year 6 students
is approximately 30 - 45 minutes daily.
This time frame includes at least 15 minutes of reading each day.***