

St Joseph's School Murray Bridge

HOMEWORK POLICY

Vision

St Joseph's Catholic School is a school community that recognises the uniqueness of every person, nurturing faith and wellbeing and pursuing excellence in education.

Rationale

At St Joseph's Catholic School R-9, we believe that homework is a part of the total educational experience. It is a continuation or extension of the classroom and is intended to enrich and extend student learning. John Hattie's research states that homework, on its own, has little impact on learning outcomes for students. What makes a measurable difference to student learning is quality parental/carer involvement in their child's world, reading quality books, accessing quality books that encourage personal reading for pleasure and, when required, for intentional research and learning.

At St Joseph's, we believe that parents/carers' authentic conversations with their child about the world around them enhances their oral language skills, increases vocabulary and contributes to the student's understanding of the world around them.

We acknowledge that families have multi-faceted lifestyles and need a healthy balance between work and play. The setting of homework needs to consider each student's differing learning styles, family circumstances, and after-school commitments. **We encourage the expectations of homework for each child to be determined as a result of communication between the teacher and the parent/carer on a yearly basis.**

As students move into higher levels of schooling, homework is an extension of what students do in the classroom, and it teaches them that learning takes place in and outside of school. However, if a student requires extra practice at a skill or strategy, the teacher will communicate with the parent/carer and arrange practice work designed for that student.

Aims

The aim of St Joseph's Catholic School Homework Policy is to suit each individual child:

- to be a flexible arrangement and suited to the needs of each child
- reinforce learning by providing practice and application of skills or completion of familiar, unfinished work
- develop responsibility and independent study habits through learning to manage time as they move into Middle Years
- utilise out-of-school resources for learning, allowing students to explore, create and broaden interests without classroom limits
- incorporate parents/carers or significant others into the students' school experiences through related home activities

Implementation

On a yearly basis, teachers will communicate with the parents/carers of each child to determine the best home (homework) routine to suit their child's learning and wellbeing.

- If a child completes work at home (homework), it will NOT include new learning but provide parents/carers with an opportunity to help consolidate what students learn in class. Year-level groups will provide more detail about homework requirements via Seesaw.
- If a child completes work at home (homework), it will be suited to the needs and abilities of the individual student. The classroom teacher records consultation with parents/carers about homework expectations for their child on a yearly basis.
- Students should know what is expected of them, and the task/s should be within the student's ability.

Homework appropriate to particular phases of learning

The following is a guide in determining the amount of homework students might be expected to undertake after consultation with parents/carers.

- In Reception, generally, students will not be required to complete set homework but are encouraged to listen to reading nightly.
- In Years 1 and 2, homework could be up to but generally not more than 1 - 1 ½ hours per week.
- Homework in Years 3 to Year 5 could be up to but generally not more than 2 hours per week.
- Homework in Years 6 to Year 9 could be up to but generally not more than 3 hours per week.

Many activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills. Homework tasks may include:

- daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or other family members
- linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- conversations about what is happening at school
- preparation for oral presentations
- opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.

Homework set in consultation with the classroom teacher can be completed daily or weekly. It may include daily independent reading and be coordinated across different subject areas.