



St Joseph's School
Kingswood

HOMEWORK POLICY

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL KINGSWOOD

Rationale

St Joseph's Kingswood is a Catholic school in the Josephite tradition. We create and uphold a nurturing environment for our children, families, teachers, volunteers, and the wider parish. We are a Catholic community of educators and learners who strive for excellence in education, and we are innovative and collaborative in our approach. Our life long purpose is to maintain a sense of belonging for all our children encouraging them to reach their full potential.

HOMEWORK RATIONALE

At St Joseph's School we believe:

That homework should help students develop good study habits, promote positive attitudes towards learning and to communicate to students that learning is a lifelong process.

Families and children are all different with different needs. Families spending time together is valued and supported by the school, and therefore, homework should not unduly interrupt family life.

A successful homework program includes:

- Effective home-school partnerships;
- Developing appropriate routines and structures;
- The creation of a positive learning environment;
- Parents, teachers and students valuing homework as an important learning opportunity;
- An understanding of children's individual needs and abilities;
- Appropriate parent participation, support and involvement in their child's learning.

1 PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK

Schools provide homework opportunities for a range of purposes. These include:

- to encourage student self-discipline and time management skills;
- to reinforce studies carried out during the day;
- to involve parents in the learning program of their child;
- to encourage student initiative and creativity;
- to complete work/assignments that could not be completed in school time;
- to help prepare students for the demands of further studies at secondary level;

ROLES

At St. Joseph's, it is recognized that there are many stakeholders in the homework process, and that each stakeholder has an important role to play in the successful implementation of the homework program.

ROLE OF THE PARENT

- to provide an appropriate place in the home for the student to complete homework;
- to consult the diary and to monitor the amount of homework set each night;
- to encourage and assist the child to complete the homework set but **not** to do the homework;
- to use a diary or communication book for effective 2-way communication.
- To inform the teacher of legitimate reasons why homework has not been completed.

ROLE OF THE TEACHER

At St Joseph's, teachers need to ensure that they set homework that is purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the classroom program. The role of the teachers is therefore:

- to set clear tasks and where necessary set homework tasks in written form, especially for long term assignments;
- to set work which is appropriate to their student's ability;
- to be flexible in their expectations i.e. take into account the cultural and social differences of their families and also their sporting and recreational commitments;
- to follow-up homework by marking and appraising work,
- take appropriate action in an attempt to ensure that homework is completed;
- to set work that does not require an excessive amount of assistance.

ROLE OF THE STUDENT

- to understand the homework task before leaving school
- to have recorded the task in the diary correctly, with sufficient detail that they will know what they need to do
- to organize all materials and equipment that are needed to complete the homework task
- to ask a parent or caregiver to write a note in their diary if homework cannot be completed within a reasonable time frame
- to find an appropriate place to do their homework at home
- to manage time effectively through the use of their diary

SCHOOL DIARY

At St. Joseph's, the primary function of the school diary is the development of time management and personal responsibility in our students.

The diary is also a means of communication between the school and the home. In those year levels where diaries are used, students are expected to enter all homework set for each night with sufficient detail that they will know what they need to do and parents are requested to sign the diary as per the class teacher requirement.

HOMEWORK TIME ALLOCATION

Teachers will give homework according to the following guidelines and maximum times.

Reception - Year 2

Parents are encouraged to read to children and to listen to them read on a regular basis. In addition students are encouraged to spend time in other areas as directed by the teacher. **The total amount of time is not to exceed a maximum 15-20 minutes per night.**

Year 3 – Year 7

Homework may take a variety of forms and should include reading, literacy, numeracy and other curriculum tasks. **The total amount of time is not to exceed the following maximum limits per week.**

Year 3 - One hour per week

Year 4 One and a half hours per week

Year 5 - Two hours per week

Year 6/7 - Three hours per week – this equates to approximately 45 minutes per night.

NB – reading should be completed **in addition to** these prescribed time limits

At all year levels students should be encouraged to revise set work, to read widely, to continue with assignments etc. when specified work has not been set by the teacher on a particular night.

- **No homework should be set for weekends, however children may choose to organise their time to include weekend work.**
- **Consequences for incomplete homework will be determined by individual teachers. There may be occasions where students have missed class time and need to complete work not done at school at home as a consequence.**

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, or earlier if information becomes available that significantly affects the content of the policy