



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackall

## Homework Policy



### Preamble

*Homework at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackall means different things to different people. In principle, homework is about school and parents working together as a team to provide a balanced framework for each child to experience diverse experiences as part of their healthy family life.*

*At St. Joseph's we define homework as the completion, outside of normal school hours, of meaningful and worthwhile practical life skills, fitness, health, cultural, spiritual and academic learning experiences for our children. A broad range of age appropriate activities are proposed for children in each year level.*

*It is acknowledged that there is a need to achieve balance between work, play and family activities. Homework is designed to contribute to positive family relationships and healthy living.*

### Policy Statement

Homework should positively contribute to each child's holistic personal development. At St Joseph's School, set homework tasks should be part of the balance of family life and extra-curricular activities, as well as consolidating and extending school-based learning. Homework is seen as an essential part of the education of each child. Completing set activities is an integral undertaking of all students from Years 1 to 6. It is presented to reinforce concepts taught in class, to develop a sense of responsibility, to provide valuable feedback to parents/guardians on what has been taught and to develop good study habits.

## Homework Expectations

Homework is characterised by a variety of both formal and informal components. Formal activities will include NAPLAN format questions (excludes Prep ) and activities based around work that is covered in the classroom. Other recommended tasks include reading, sight words, spelling and mathematics. Activities should revise and consolidate students thinking around work covered in class and meet curriculum expectations for each student's year level. Examples of informal homework are identified in the additional homework elements section of this document.

At the commencement of each school year teachers will inform parents and children of their homework expectations.

Monitoring the completion of activities and providing opportunities for children to give feedback on their homework will be the responsibility of the teacher.

Feedback between teacher and parent in relation to the completion of homework is important particularly on occasions when it is unable to be completed.

## Rationale

### ***Homework at St. Joseph's is intended:***

- To complement family life
- To build a love of learning
- To promote personal physical, mental emotional and spiritual development
- To foster the development of organisational, time management and interrelationship skills and positive life skills
- To revise and consolidate new concepts
- To provide extension and enrichment opportunities
- To create occasions to share new experiences

## This Policy Values

- Self-Discipline
- Self – Worth
- Self – Development
- Learning
- Family Life
- Creativity
- Responsibility
- Enjoyment
- Positivity

## Implementation

### ***The homework guidelines are to include information about:***

- Homework expectations
- Provisions to negotiate timeframes to complete homework
- Prep (starting from Semester 2): 5-10mins per day. May consist of sight words and where appropriate, class readers.
- Years 1/2: 15 minutes per day
- Years 3/4: 20 to 25 minutes per day
- Years 5/6: 30 – 40 minutes per day. Students may engage in assignment / project work during Semester 2.

## Additional Homework Elements

- Completing unfinished school work
- Research Work (Online/IT) – questioning, interviewing, investigating, creating, problem solving, surveying.
- Physical activities – organized sport, art, drama, cultural activities, music lessons, dance, play, learning through family activities.
- Practical living skills – shopping, housework, cooking, caring for pets, time management planning, planning the next family holiday, doing something thoughtful for someone else.
- Relationship skills – spending time with family, meditation/spiritual/relaxation, visiting family/friends, community involvement.
- Literacy & Numeracy skills – sharing a book with family members, writing letters/lists/notes, identifying words/letters in different environments, counting, ordering, cooking
- Fine & Gross Motor skills – pinching, grasping, cutting, gluing, weaving, unlocking locks, outdoor activities that involve climbing, balancing, hand/eye co-ordination, running, jumping.

## Non-Completion of Homework

When homework is not being completed, teachers are to conference with students and (where necessary with parents) in joint problem solving. Teachers are to encourage the completion of homework, establish a common understanding of what is expected and what is happening, and offer any support that may be required. Children and parents are encouraged to recognize that they are accountable for the completion of homework. If children are experiencing difficulty in completing tasks in a reasonable time or if particular family circumstances impede the completion of homework, then parents should communicate this to the teacher.