



## St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcaldine

### Homework Policy

**POLICY:** Teachers will regularly set an amount of homework appropriate to class level and individual ability.

**VALUE STATEMENT:** St. Joseph's School Community values homework as a means to develop necessary life skills including self discipline, independence, responsibility and time management. We believe that homework is a necessary part of education and will incorporate interactive home learning tasks wherever possible. Setting and correcting homework takes time for teachers and therefore there is an expectation that homework will be complete each week. St Joseph's staff recognise that family life is very busy and homework tasks are chosen carefully in order to consolidate learning rather than hinder or place a burden on precious family time. Homework classes are offered in order for students to work through the majority of their homework tasks in a designated timeframe under teacher supervision.

**RATIONALE:** Homework provides students with the opportunity to refine, consolidate and extend learning. The routine element of homework encourages students to develop organisation skills and positive study habits. It communicates to parents the specific learning that occurs in classrooms. **Interactive home learning tasks are also important.** Research shows that when parents and children collaborate on interactive tasks, children learn while they spend quality time with their parents. This helps children make links between home and school, and sends a message that the home is a place where learning happens.

### **PRACTICES:**

1. Homework is to be set on a weekly or fortnightly basis.
2. **Non-negotiable** homework tasks cover reading, literacy (eg spelling/sight words practise) and maths (eg number facts practise). Students may be required to carry out research in preparation for an assignment/project, collect items, learn material (e.g. class poem, liturgy reading practise) or complete unfinished classroom tasks. Major assignments will not be set for homework. **Optional/negotiable** tasks may be included in homework and it is at the parents' discretion as to whether these will be completed.
3. **Teachers will incorporate interactive home learning tasks wherever possible into the homework to increase parent engagement.** These could include listing ways a mathematics concept is used in everyday life, students showing parents new skills they have learnt and talking about how they could use that skill in every day life, playing maths/sight word/spelling games together etc.

4. Homework tasks, procedures and expectations should be communicated to students and parents at the beginning of the year. This communication should be maintained throughout the year via student diaries or directly on the homework sheet.
5. Teachers will correct and follow up all homework to ascertain where revision is required.
6. Parental concerns about the difficulty or time allocation of homework should be communicated to the teacher. A note from parents is required should any homework tasks be incomplete.
7. Parents are required to initial the homework sheet to show that Interactive Home Learning Tasks have been complete.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

Prep/Year 1	10 min per night (including reading)
Year 2/3	10 min per night + a minimum of 10 min reading 3 nights per week
Year 4/5/6	15 min per night + a minimum of 10 min reading 3 nights per week

Students are to record what they have read using their Home Reading Log. Parents have the opportunity to comment in this book. Students who read for a total of 150 nights across the year are provided with a prize at the end of the year courtesy of the P&F.

### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Teachers need to be flexible on the allocation of homework and should consider the differing abilities and circumstances of each student. If parents wish for their child to complete additional homework, it is the parents' responsibility to source and organise these activities. Homework set by the teacher takes priority over the additional homework.
- Students who have substantial distances to travel home in the evenings may be given special consideration in regards to completing all homework. This is to be negotiated between the Teacher and Parents.
- Teachers need to take into account access to technology in homes, and if tasks are set requiring computers/iPads, students who do not have access to these need to be provided with opportunities to access these at school ie homework classes.

### **REFLECTION MATERIAL**

<http://www.qct.edu.au/Publications/Periodical/QCTResearchDigest2014-10.pdf>