

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL JUNEE

HOMework POLICY



Written: February 2018

Date to be reviewed: February 2019

Our school, St Joseph's, is Christ centred, guided by its motto "Christ Our Way". All school community members endeavour to facilitate each child's journey by being dynamic in direction and strong in service.

In being Christ Centred we will:

- Build the Kingdom of God through our personal relationship with Jesus by providing an atmosphere that encompasses prayer and reverence amongst staff and students.
- Ensure that the children have an understanding of the Gospel values to develop a faith based relationship with Jesus.
- Develop knowledge, beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith through prayer, liturgy and the teaching of our Religious Education and Sacramental Programs.

In being Dynamic in Direction, we will:

- Provide a holistic education that develops an ongoing love of learning by incorporating innovative and enriching teaching and learning activities into our teaching practice to meet the changing needs of our world.
- Encourage students and teachers to strive for excellence by fostering and supporting them to make the best possible use of their individual gifts and talents.
- Affirm the dignity of the individual and cater for each student's and family's needs by honouring differences in abilities, cultures and interests while respecting each person's journey.

In being Strong in Service, we will:

- Give each student an education that is professional, current, relevant and integrated, by staff who are committed to lifelong learning.
- Provide leadership that models service to others by being active members of the parish, school and local communities.
- Offer each student the opportunity to develop leadership qualities that will serve them and their community, now and in the future.
- Ensure that discipline is just and fair so that it nurtures strong values and morals that promote self-responsibility and good citizenship.

Rationale

Homework should be

- appropriate for each student's age and ability
- Students should not be punished for not completing homework. If a child has no-one to read to or with, then an older buddy is asked to read to and with the student at school.

Implementation

Minimum Requirements:

- **Early Stage One:** No formal written homework is given in this Stage. However, it is expected that Early Stage 1 complete sound and reading activities. This is to be for no more than 10 minutes per night
- **Stage One:** No formal written homework is given in this Stage. However, it is expected that Stage 1 read their take home reader Monday to Thursday nights. This would be no more than 15 minutes per night. Towards the end of Stage 1 (year 2) students would be expected to have spelling words and activities, as well as their home reader. This is to be for no more than 20 minutes per night
- **Stage Two and Three:** Students in Stage 2 and 3 would be expected to complete spelling and home reading. This is to be for no more than 20 minutes per night
- Homework is only expected to be completed on Monday- Thursday nights.

Home Reading:

- Each student has a home reading diary that is filled in each night, Monday to Thursday, signed and dated.
- Students receive reading awards for significant night's reading which is recognised at assembly and in the newsletter.

General Guidelines:

- Teachers are not expected to provide homework for children who are away from school due to family holidays taken in the school terms.
- Homework is usually given on a weekly basis. That is the class receives their homework on Monday and it should be completed and returned by Friday. This enables people with other commitments to organise their time.
- Homework should be consistent with what is being taught in each stage.
- Teachers are not expected to provide extra homework for brighter students. These students are encouraged to think for themselves and devise activities at home in things that they are interested in. However, they will suggest web sites and activities you may like to do at home with your child.
- Home readers are books that students can read. They are set at this level, so that each student can practice fluency and expression. More fluent and capable readers are encouraged to read books they have chosen from either the town or school library as their home reader.
- Teachers in Stages two and three **may use their discretion** and set an assignment, or part of an assignment to be done at home. This would be relevant to topics being studied, include outcomes and the purpose of the assignment. Parents are not expected to do the assignment for their child. Work on the assignment should not take any longer each night than the prescribed homework allocated time. Reading for the assignment would be seen as the allocated reading time for that week.