



St John the Apostle
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, TARNEIT WEST

HOMEWORK POLICY

January, 2019

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

54 – 76 Kingbird Ave, Tarneit
West

Principal
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Homework Policy

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RATIONALE

The St John the Apostle homework policy benefits students in a number of ways. We believe homework should complement classroom learning, foster work routines and provide other opportunities for students to follow expectations of self-managing and taking ownership of their own learning.

As a school we acknowledge that many parents have different expectations of homework and to formulate a homework structure which suits all is extremely challenging. For this reason our homework policy aims to communicate clearly the role of the school, the parents and the child in administering homework tasks.

The school's role in administering homework takes into account the following:

- the importance of family time in an increasingly complex and busy world
- the high percentage of shift workers within our parent community who are not in a position to oversee homework on a regular basis
- the limited access some students have towards technology and the internet
- the language barriers which a multicultural community experiences and how this impacts on parent's ability to assist in administering homework
- the desire of some families to enter their children in select entry secondary schools and the additional work that this may require outside of school hours
- the desire to provide a learning environment which best uses teacher time to improve student achievement

AIMS

This homework policy takes into account a number of factors which includes current research as well as parent and teacher opinions. Therefore, the purpose of homework at St John the Apostle is aimed at:

- providing families with homework which allows them to partner with the school in a way which works best for them
- providing an avenue which reinforces classroom learning and communicates with parents the learning currently being undertaken in the classroom
- developing a responsibility for self-learning
- assisting our students in developing organisational and time management skills
- preparing children for the demands of secondary school

IMPLEMENTATION

The following strategies and guidelines will be implemented to achieve the aim of the homework policy at St John the Apostle:

- The homework policy will be available on the school website for parents to read when required. The homework policy will also be outlined on school information and enrolment nights
- During the first few weeks, no homework will be administered, to allow teachers time to assess students and then assign homework at their appropriate level/ year level. The issuing of a Take Home text is permitted
- Homework books and or satchels will be issued to students to assist in organising their homework and resources
- In some cases homework submitted late will not be corrected. Instead a record of late submission will be recorded in the homework book.
- A sheet that outlines the structure and expectations of homework will be placed in the cover of homework books. This will include the log on details for online resources such as Sunshine Classics and Matific.
- Classroom teachers will set weekly homework appropriate for each year level
- In the junior grades school homework will be predominantly made up of home reading, spelling or maths and english tasks will be incorporated as students move towards senior grades. Homework should be of a consistent structure to reduce confusion for students and families
- Homework should be of consistent structure so that families can ensure they have the resources ready for the students to complete the tasks
- Homework should be of a consistent workload to assist families in establishing time management routines
- Depending on the task, homework may be corrected as a group, whole class or individually by the teacher
- Online homework tasks such as Matific and Sunshine Classics are optional
- The school's website will include links to Matific and Sunshine Classics
- Parents are advised, if they wish to seek further challenges for their child, to do so from other sources. Additional homework given by parents becomes their responsibility. Teachers are not in a position to administer, correct and give feedback on additional work
- Homework is not administered over the last week of each term and school holidays
- Families wishing to be exempt from homework should inform the school in writing at the commencement of each school year
- So that students can be treated fairly, students unable to complete homework should have a note from parents
- Students who have not completed homework will receive a short note informing parents
- Students will not be kept in over playtimes to complete homework. Late homework will not be corrected by the teacher

EARLY YEARS (Prep): 20mins/night

Homework at this level students should predominantly focus on developing oral reading skills. Therefore homework consists of:

- Nightly reading heard by a parent or a guardian (Take Home reading books are supplied by the school, however we also encourage families to use Sunshine Classics as

an additional resource to access reading materials and related activities or visit the local library).

- Nightly reviewing of high frequency words. (e.g. Golden words, M100W word lists, etc)

JUNIOR YEARS (Year 1-2) 20 mins/night

Year 1 children receive a structured worksheet that enables the extension of classroom work. In adhering to Education Department Guidelines, children should not exceed 20 minutes homework each night. The use of Matific as an online resource whereby parents can support student learning in numeracy is encouraged but optional.

MIDDLE YEARS (Year 3- Year 4): 30 min/night

For children who are still to attain a Reading Level 28, oral reading still remains the main focus of homework, however from Year 2 structured worksheets on spelling and maths are included in additional tasks. The use of Matific as an online resource whereby parents can support student learning in numeracy is encouraged but optional.

SENIOR YEARS (Year 5 – Year 6): 45 mins / night

Homework at this level provides an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning. Therefore homework consists of:

- Daily independent reading that is recorded on a log sheet provided
- A list of spelling words to learn
- A maths worksheet that enables the revision of class work Sunshine Classics and Matific are optional for your child. These are made available from the school's website
- The use of Matific as an online resource whereby parents can support student learning in numeracy is encouraged but optional.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four year review cycle.

Staff Members Involved: Simon Dundon, Jenny Fenech and Ann Raj

Policy Version: v1.1

Date of ratification: 2016

Date for next review: 2019

Evaluation:

All policies are revisited annually and reviewed as part of the school Improvement process.