ST. JOSEPHS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PORT MACQUARIE

Name of Policy: Homework Policy

Date: October 2014

Review Date: November 2015

OUR VISION

“ONE IN CHRIST”

OUR MISSION

At St. Joseph’s Primary we will

- give witness to Christian values
- respect the dignity and sacredness of each student
- work with the parents to build up within the child an awareness of the presence of God
- endeavour to discern and fully develop the potential of each student
- foster a love for learning
- create a happy, accepting and enriching environment
Homework Policy

Guiding Principles:

At St Joseph’s, we believe that Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and that it provides an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. We believe that guidance and reasonable time frames should be given to students, parents and carers so that the completion of Homework does not place undue pressure on busy families. We believe that the content of Homework should be relevant and cater for varying needs within the grade. At St Joseph’s, we believe that Home Reading will be a priority at every stage.

A school policy on Homework enables teachers and carers to work more fully in partnership, given that the guidelines are clear and support is mutual.

Aims:

Homework will:
- Consolidate and/or extend classroom learning
- Develop positive study habits
- Develop responsibility for self-learning
- Encourage research and assignment skills
- Involve and interest parents in their child’s progress
- Offer an avenue for home-school communication

Implementation:

- The school’s Homework Guidelines for Parents & Carers will form part of this policy and will be distributed to parents/carers at the commencement of each school year.
- Teachers will address the homework policy and procedures for their specific grade during Parent Information evenings.
- Classroom teachers will plan homework tasks that are appropriate to children’s development and skills, and be flexible enough to cater for busy family schedules.
- Home Reading is given a high priority at all grade levels.
- Homework is generally given out with clear explanation, set expectations and a due date.
- It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.
- Homework tasks must be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum.
- Homework tasks will be marked with feedback and support provided by teachers.
- The school’s website will include additional open ended challenges that are appropriate to students of a variety of ages, which students may choose to undertake.
- Completion of Homework and/or home reading will be recorded on semester Report cards.
- Failure to complete set homework without a note provided by a parent/carer may result in an appropriate consequence.
Homework Guidelines for Parents & Carers:
Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. At St Joseph’s, Home Reading will be a key part of daily homework; however the rest of the homework may cover written and non-written work across all Key Learning Areas.

Homework should not interfere or place stress on your family life. The following times are provided for you when homework is set.

1. **Early Years Homework** (Kindergarten-Year 2)
   Homework should not take longer than 15-20 minutes per night and will consist mostly of reading and spelling activities. Homework may also include simple extension tasks associated with classroom learning, gathering of extra information or materials. Reading is encouraged over weekends.

2. **Stage 2 Homework** (Years 3 & 4)
   Homework should not take longer than 30 minutes per night. This may include daily independent reading, times tables practise, written and research tasks. Reading is encouraged over weekends.

3. **Stage 3 Homework** (Years 5 & 6)
   Homework should not take longer than 40-60 minutes per night. This will include daily independent reading, practise of multiplication facts, written work, research tasks, projects and assignments. The ‘To Know Worship and Love’ text will be sent home twice a term for discussion and reflection. Homework is usually not set over weekends, however on occasions exceptions may occur, particularly in the case of assignments and projects. Due dates will be set and worked towards. Year 5 and Year 6 will have a Diary to help them organise their homework tasks and for Home/School communication.

The times given are maximum times. If your child is struggling to complete work in these times, please STOP. Write a note to the class teacher explaining that an effort has been made, and perhaps indicate where your child may have been experiencing difficulty. The class teacher will understand. Most teachers allow students to complete their homework over several nights so that if regular sports, visitors, family celebrations or sickness interferes with homework completion, there is always another opportunity. Students are encouraged to plan their homework and to do some each night so as not to leave it all until the last minute.

Parents and carers can assist your child by establishing a routine that suits your lifestyle and home circumstances. A quiet area free from distractions where your child can work comfortably and concentrate is ideal. Children from Kindergarten-Year 6 all need their parents’ involvement to help them successfully complete their home tasks. Parents can help by encouraging daily home reading, even in the upper years, including hearing children read aloud and reading aloud to children. Children can benefit from assistance in beginning tasks, discussing ideas, researching, organising and collecting resources, and checking over completed work.

Please inform the teacher of any concerns you have about homework as they arise and provide a short note to explain any non-completion of homework. Failure to complete set homework without a reasonable explanation and/or a note from a parent may result in a working lunch.

*This policy was first ratified by the St Joseph’s, Port Macquarie community in June 2009 and will be reviewed in November 2015.*