



ST JOSEPH'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL **WOODBURN**

HOMEWORK POLICY

At St Joseph's Woodburn we believe that homework can:

- Enhance a child's learning and is a practical example of the saying 'It takes a school and a home to educate a child.' (You Can Do It Program)
- Encourage the development of useful study habits necessary for future success
- Be a valuable opportunity for parents to see samples of their child's current work in a variety of subject areas over a period of time
- Give parents the chance to acknowledge and praise the efforts of their children
- Be a means for parents to give extra support, encouragement and advice to children in a variety of ways
- Be a way of revising and consolidating classwork
- Inspire students to take more responsibility for their own learning and help them achieve personal goals
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The Teacher's Role

- To clearly outline to parents and children the expectations and procedures of homework for their class
- To set a variety of homework tasks in a number of subject areas over a reasonable period of time
- To correct specific homework tasks and encourage, support and acknowledge the efforts of all students
- To set homework for four nights of the week to be completed and handed in each Friday morning.
- To be mindful of commonplace domestic situations which can make homework difficult or even inappropriate to complete e.g., family sickness, special visitors, lack of resources, etc.
- To ensure that students have the necessary skills and prior experience to complete a given homework task
- To inspire students to not only complete formal, teacher-set homework but to undertake activities and practices that the students have chosen in order to achieve personal goals e.g. extension activities, competitions, etc

The Parent's Role

- To provide a study environment where the student can be encouraged and supported in a positive and affirming manner
- To bring to the teacher's attention any matter which is of concern to them or to their child as soon as possible. Let the teacher know about the good news too!
- To engage their children in discussion about their day's efforts at school. Never believe them when they say they have done "nothing" at school that day!
- To acknowledge the many out-of-school activities in which children are engaged that provide valuable and practical learning opportunities eg music, dance, sport, drama, family games, cooking, etc. *And never underestimating the value of creative play!*

The Student's Role

- To be responsible for taking work home and returning it to school.
- To accept responsibility for the completion of homework and complete all tasks to the best of their ability
- To be willing to ask for help from the teacher or family wherever necessary
- To plan around after-school time in order to set aside time to complete homework/study obligations
- To take pride in the presentation of their work and enjoy satisfaction in their achievements.

Suggested Weekly Time Allocation Guidelines

The expectations of time spent on homework tasks is dependent upon so many factors that it is impossible to find consensus – age, ability, special needs, health, home environment, attitude - are but a few of the factors that affect homework expectations on any occasion. Encouragement and affirmation are powerful strategies in bringing about positive change and reinforcing desired behaviour. The following time allocations are not to be seen as prescriptive or mandatory but as general guidelines.

Kindergarten:	10-15 minutes per night
Year 1 and 2:	15-20 minutes per night
Year 3 and 4:	25-30 minutes per night
Year 5 and 6:	30-45 minutes per night

In addition the 'To Know, Worship and Love resource will be sent home at least two times per term.

Other considerations

Given the significant student commitment to enriching out-of-school sporting and cultural activities, teachers are mindful of imposing further demands. For many valid reasons, families find it difficult to ensure their children cope with the demands of challenging homework tasks on a regular basis.

The staff of St. Joseph's believes in flexibility, variety and fun with regard to homework expectations. A coercive, 'do-it-or-else!' response to any homework task has the potential to destroy those very attitudes to study which we all value so highly.

A parent may choose for their child not to complete homework and this should not result in any penalty against the child. The best homework a child can do is 'family living' - talking, listening, playing and sharing interests with siblings and parents. It is these things which promote learning about life and enhance the values of the child. Adults must give family time to children.

Homework should **never** be seen as a punishment. Experimentation should occur in the home to discover the time of day and place where homework can be done easily without causing hassle to either the child or parent. It is important to establish a regular pattern which is familiar to all members of the family. Homework should not be allowed to intrude into leisure activities or periods of relaxation. It is probably better for some lapse of time to occur between the end of the school day and the commencement of the homework session.