

SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL HOMEWORK

POLICY

Rational

At Sacred Heart Parish School we acknowledge the importance of family time in an increasingly complex and busy world. Our homework policy aims to support equitable practices whilst recognising the diversity of families in our school community.

The purpose of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

Guidelines

As a school that monitors the research of John Hattie. Hattie states that, “Homework in which there is no active involvement by the teacher does not contribute to student learning”. (p236, Visible Learning by John Hattie, 2009) He also makes reference to the amount of time which should be spent on homework. “The positive effects of homework were negatively related to the duration of the homework treatment. Shorter is better”. (p234, Visible Learning by John Hattie, 2009) It is important to establish a regular reading routine from F – 6.

Time

The amount of time taken to do homework will vary according to individual capabilities and family circumstances. The time frame for completion of homework activities will be flexible, taking into account family routines and timetables. As homework is not intended to be an onerous or stressful activity we have outlined a homework guide.

Early Years – Prep to Year 2	Middle Years – Years 3 & 4	Upper Years – Years 5 & 6
In the Prep Year, are encouraged to attempt reading and to be read to. In Years 1 and 2, students are expected to read independently, be read to and to discuss the text with an adult daily.	In Years 3 and 4, homework should include reading, spelling and number facts. It should take no longer than 1 hour per week.	In Years 5 & 6 homework should include reading, spelling and number facts. It should take no longer than 2 hours per week.

Roles and responsibilities

Teachers will:

- Clearly communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations for homework to students, parents/caregivers and discussing any concerns that arise
- Ensure that homework tasks are based on what has been taught
- Ensure the homework procedure is implemented and monitored by teachers
- Correct the work done
- Provide opportunities for students to discuss any difficulties they are experiencing with homework

Parent/Caregivers will:

- Be aware of and support the school's homework procedure, discussing with the teacher, when required, any concerns or stressors
- Actively encourage their children to engage in reading and/or discussing the text each day
- Discuss homework activities and expectations with their children, encouraging them to organise their time responsibly

Students will:

- Know the school's homework procedure
- Read each day
- Be responsible for the completion of homework tasks
- Complete and present homework on time
- Discuss any homework difficulties with teacher/s and parent/s or caregiver/s

Evaluation:

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

This policy was last ratified by the staff and leadership team

February 2017