HOMEWORK POLICY ST JOSEPH’S

INTRODUCTION
St Joseph’s school is a place of learning. The educational goals that are strived for, will reflect the Mission Statement and Gospel Values fundamental to St Joseph’s School. A range of learning opportunities is available to help students reach this outcome.

Homework is an important learning strategy which is used to obtain these outcomes. While important in assisting learning, homework will also develop skills needed to become a life long learner.

MISSION STATEMENT
“St Joseph’s School offers an holistic education within a Catholic Christian ethos whilst developing and valuing the uniqueness of the individual as we encourage each student to become a life long learner.”

The mission statement of St Joseph’s School stresses an holistic education, a goal that is supported by homework. It also stresses education within a Catholic Christian environment, which reflects the major role of families and home life in the education process. “Valuing the uniqueness of the individual” recognizes that there is variation between individual students and their families and how this impacts on homework. The skills and attitudes developed through homework supports the students to become life long learners.

MERCY VALUES
Dignity, Mercy & Justice.

DEFINITION
Homework is work assigned by teachers to be completed by students outside of school hours in support of their ongoing learning.
Homework includes both written homework and study/revision. It provides students the opportunity to consolidate their classroom learning. It does this by requiring them to complete set work that strengthens and reinforces the learning work that they cover within the classroom.
It also allows the students to attempt this work without the direct supervision of the subject teacher, gauge whether they understand the work and to complete it without any further help; or to identify the particular areas of the work that they may struggle to understand. They can then use this information to seek further help from the classroom teacher during school time.
Homework also allows students to involve family members with their learning. Not only are family members another resource of help to students but assisting with homework also allows them to see what the student is doing in each subject.
Homework also helps direct students into becoming more independent learners who are able to attempt work without the direct supervision of a teacher. If unable to complete the work initially, the student can seek a solution using his own abilities and resources.
Therefore, homework can engage independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:
• Revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning.
• Applying knowledge and skills in new contexts.
• Pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively.
• Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning.

POLICY STATEMENT
St Joseph’s recognizes the important role homework plays towards education. Homework should be a positive experience enhancing learning.

The important steps in the homework cycle will include
• Setting of homework by teachers
• Performance of homework by students, including parental input where appropriate
• Homework review by teachers

Homework should be set at a level that is appropriate for the age, educational level, and individual circumstances of the student. Whilst homework should not be done by parents, parental input is vital in providing a positive effect on learning.

CONSEQUENCES
St Joseph’s School will develop processes and procedures outlining homework expectations and review.

The positive performance of homework provides
1. a strong learning tool
2. reinforcement of learnt work
3. development of habits that will assist in becoming a life long learner
4. opportunity for interaction between parents and students

Where there is concern about the amount or content of homework, students and or parents should discuss the expectations with teachers. St Joseph’s teaching staff are committed to the educational goals outlined in the mission statement and this commitment extends to early resolution of difficulties related to homework.

Above all, homework should be a positive learning experience supporting St Joseph’s school based program and enhancing the home family environment.

Michael McCarthy
Principal

Chris Haynes
Board Chairman

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