

Homework at St Joseph's.



Our Commitment

At St Joseph's, we believe homework should support learning, build independence, and strengthen the connection between school and home. This policy outlines our approach to homework based on Professor John Hattie's extensive research.

Purpose of Homework

Homework at St Joseph's is designed to reinforce classroom learning while helping students develop responsibility and time management skills. It encourages meaningful family involvement in education and aims to build students' confidence and sense of achievement

What the Research Tells Us

- Homework has limited impact in early primary years, but becomes more effective in upper primary and secondary school.
- Short, focused tasks are more beneficial than long assignments.
- Student motivation and engagement are key to homework success.
- Homework should complement the learning that is taking place at school
- Children often see homework as part of their routine and should be able to complete it independently.

Hattie, J. (2012). *Visible learning for teachers: Maximizing impact on learning*. Routledge.

Our Homework Guidelines

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| <p>Prep to Year 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reading (including letters and sounds, high frequency words, and readers) should be completed each night <p>*Reading should be accompanied with a cover-page that gives parents some ideas of how to engage with the readers (eg conversation starters, reading response tasks, etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Optional activities such as additional reading with family, talking about the day, or exploring interests. | <p>Years 3 to 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reading (including levelled readers appropriate to student need, or authentic texts) should take place each night. <p>*Reading should be accompanied with a cover-page that gives the students ways to engage with their texts (eg reading response, ways to share/think about reading, etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- If required for particular students - weekly homework tasks to support in-class learning that may include additional reading, spelling, mathematics practice, or project work. Tasks will be short (15-30 minutes) and purposeful. |
| <p>All Years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Homework will be explained clearly by the class teacher.- Tasks will be achievable and matched to students' abilities.- Feedback will be given to support learning.- Parents are encouraged to support but not complete homework for their child. | |

How Parents Can Support Their Children

- Create a routine: Set a regular time and quiet space for homework.
- Encourage independence: Let your child attempt tasks on their own before offering help.
- Be positive: Praise effort and progress, not just results.
- Stay informed: Check in with your child about what they're working on and communicate with teachers if needed.
- Keep it balanced: Ensure homework doesn't interfere with play, rest, or family time.