



## **Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School**

### **Homework Policy**

**(2013)**

#### **1. Introduction**

This policy provides clear guidelines for homework for all children from Kindergarten to Year 6.

#### **2. Rationale and Aims**

*The purpose of this policy is to:*

- provide a positive link between home and school;
- begin and develop a pattern of good study skills;
- provide revision and consolidation of concepts.

*Therefore the aim of homework is for each student to:*

- gain confidence and enjoyment in completing activities;
- practise and revise skills introduced in class;
- develop a sound understanding of concepts, processes and strategies and the capacity to apply these;
- develop time management and study habits
- become more independent,
- evaluate and take responsibility for their learning.

Homework also provides parents with information about their children's learning programs, opportunities for faith development and allows for dialogue with others.

*Strategies:*

- Homework will include areas such as reading, mathematics, spelling and other key learning areas as appropriate
- In Kindergarten, homework will be informal and may include activities such as home reading, finding pictures, cutting out etc
- Each class teacher will explain their homework system to parents and carers at the parent information evening at the beginning of each year
- Homework will usually be given on four nights of the week or on a weekly basis
- Sacred Heart's homework policy is to set homework with the amount increasing as the student progresses from Kindergarten to Year 6

*Suggested time frames:*

- Kindergarten – 10mins reading
- Year 1 – 10 minutes
- Year 2 - 15 minutes
- Year 3 - 30 minutes
- Year 4 - 30 minutes
- Year 5 - 30-40 minutes
- Year 6 - 45-60 minutes

These times include reading and are estimates only.

#### **3. Religious Dimension**

Homework assists with developing the values, skills, and knowledge and understandings to allow the children to become independent members of society, and make informed decisions. The functional, social and cultural dimensions will empower students for life in society.

From a Catholic perspective, homework must reflect the innate dignity of all students, as created in the image and likeness of a loving, generous and creating God. Homework includes the skills of

analysis, thinking and the ability to create and communicate ideas. It also helps people make meaning of their world and therefore embraces a world-view. As Catholics, we seek to promote cooperation over competition, develop a perspective that is counter-cultural to consumerism and economic rationalism, a view that seeks justice and freedom for all. Through homework, we are seeking to promote supportive and caring relationships and to empower and equip students with the skills and values, confidence and competence, to become Gospel agents of change in their communities.

#### **4. Beliefs about Teaching and Learning**

At Sacred Heart we believe that if our students are to become independent, responsible, and productive people of God in our society, they need to develop relevant knowledge, skills and values. We believe that learning is most effective when:

- it takes place in a community where the Gospel is central to the lives of students, staff and parents;
- parents are involved in the learning process and are supported in their role as first educators;
- the atmosphere of learning encourages the learners to take risks and challenge themselves;
- the material is relevant to the experience of the learner, and the resources are adequate and appropriate;
- the learner feels motivated and excited about their learning;
- the learner is encouraged through positive, specific feedback about their achievements;
- learners take some responsibility for their own learning, are engaged and are able to make decisions about their learning;
- the parent or teacher and the learner spend time critically reflecting on the learning.

#### **5. Outcomes and Responsibilities**

*The expected outcomes of the effective implementation of this policy are:*

- students will organise and plan their time effectively;
- students will become more independent and responsible for their learning;
- students will have access to and use a variety of appropriate resources;
- students will be able to apply their knowledge and skills in a wide range of contexts;
- students will clearly articulate their learning;
- students will gain a deeper knowledge of themselves as learners;
- students will use processes and strategies to solve real-life problems;
- parents will be informed of their child's progress at school.

*The role of the Teacher:*

- Inform parents regarding the type of homework
- Assign tasks within the competence of the children
- Check written work
- Communicate with parents about areas of homework concern

*The role of the Student:*

- Be responsible for their own work
- Complete assigned tasks on time and to the best of their ability
- Speak to the teacher about any problems they have with their homework
- Children should only spend the suggested time on homework

*The role of the Parents and Caregivers:*

- Check that homework is completed and presented neatly
- Communicate with the class teacher about any problems their child may be having
- Assist children with homework, whilst allowing the children the freedom to do the work themselves
- Understand that homework is not always in written form eg: gathering objects, estimating shopping lists, interviewing or surveying people, preparing oral presentations.

Homework is designed to consolidate, revise and reinforce the work being taught focused upon at school.

## **6. School Requirements**

In general, homework will be given out for the whole week, including a weekend. Homework ALWAYS includes practice and drills in literacy and mathematics. (Refer to Literacy and Numeracy Plans) Every child should be reading for a sustained length of time at least 4 days per week. Children are encouraged to read a variety of material (eg Fiction and non-Fiction). Home readers form one such source of material. (see Appendix 1: Homework Guidelines)

The regular homework routine may change to allow children to focus on other experiences such as a research project, religion activity or a whole school area of interest. For all tasks, teachers will supply a written outline of the expectations and due date. In addition the students will be provided with opportunities to access tasks online via properties on CASTnet.

For children in Year K-6, a reading diary will be used as a communication tool between parents and teachers and should be returned weekly. The students in years 5-6 also have a diary to assist with organisation and communication. The diary must be at school every day and teachers or parents may send a note in the diary to explain behaviour or to make a comment clarifying homework. Parents are asked to contact teachers if the homework is causing tension in the home.

## **7. References**

Sacred Heart Catholic School's KLA Policies  
Sacred Heart Catholic School's Literacy and Numeracy Plans  
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School 'Beliefs about Learning'  
Sacred Heart Catholic School's Scope and Sequences

## **8. Review Date: June 2016**