



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Primary School

Homework Policy

Date of policy: 28.8.23

Date of next review: 28.8.27

Reviewed by: Josy Reeder, Susan Wangondu (parent), OSAC and School Leadership Team

1	Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Primary School Homework

1. Rationale

This policy is based on current key educational research by:

John Hattie-

**task oriented homework, such as rehearsal of basic skills, had higher effects than homework requiring deep learning or problem solving. Effects were also higher when homework was not complex*

**Parent support for homework has a positive effect on achievement, whereas direct instruction by parents can have the opposite*

**a large amount of homework tends to lower student achievement*

- Homework benefits students by complementing the teaching and learning within the classroom.
- Homework fosters good study habits, providing students with opportunities to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Homework increases parent awareness and develops home-school links.

At Our Lady of the Assumption homework is regarded as an opportunity to reinforce and develop skills gained in class. Homework is also a good opportunity for parents to be engaged in their children's learning and for children to develop important lifelong skills like being organised and independent.

Teachers will explain homework learning tasks weekly, and any questions by students will be clarified in class time. These tasks will be shared in class, at the teachers' discretion. Some tasks may be ongoing and completed over a number of weeks.

It is important to note that time for children to play and rest are vital for their development. It is also important that children are able to become involved in wider community activities that foster self esteem and independence. Being involved in sports, the arts and other extracurricular activities provide children with amazing learning experiences that should be highly valued.

Parents are encouraged to get their children involved in home family life. Cooking, gardening, walking the dog etc. are all real life skills that provide tremendous learning opportunities for children. Setting the table, cleaning their room and helping around the house teaches them about responsibility, respect and independence. Being actively involved with you each day teaches them so much about themselves and their world.

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2. Aims

- To support and reinforce classroom learning.
- To develop positive study habits.
- To develop a responsibility for self learning.

3. Implementation

- Activities are to be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum
- Any open-ended tasks will be supported by the classroom program
- All homework activities will be celebrated with feedback and support provided by teachers
- Students in Grade 5 and 6 will be supported to use homework diaries to develop organisational skills

PREP - Homework will commence in Term 2

- Daily Reading
- use of weekly diary to record reading and any other parent/teacher communication
- learn to read Heart Words and High Frequency words
- structured speaking and listening tasks set by the teacher to be completed at home (News)
- counting forwards and backwards from different starting points (0-30)
- counting collections of groups (0-30)

GRADE 1/2

- Daily Reading
- use of weekly diary to record reading and any other parent/teacher communication
- structured speaking and listening tasks set by the teacher to be completed at home (News)

From Term 2 onwards:

- phonic knowledge and word recognition activity
- learn to read Heart Words and High Frequency words
- counting forwards and backwards different starting points (0-120)
- skip counting by 2, 5 and 10 (0-120)

GRADE 3/4

- reading activities to, with and by parents
- use of weekly diary to record reading and any other parent/teacher communication
- spelling
- multiplication and division facts
- wellbeing (optional)

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GRADE 5/6

- reading on a daily basis
- tasks such as continuation of classroom work, projects and assignments, essays and research. Homework will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day.
- use of weekly diary

Hints for Parents to Give Assistance

1. Know what is expected of your child regarding homework. If you have a query, discuss the matter with your child's class teacher
2. Make homework time as pleasant as you can. Provide a quiet work area away from the TV.
3. Try to establish a regular routine.
4. Give positive assistance. Be encouraging and interested.

The Best Homework

Some of the **homework** that really makes a difference:

- Lots and lots of family conversation – story-telling, jokes, discussions about everything.
- Shared bedtime stories with family members reading to the children.
- Independent reading in bed before lights out.
- Family games, activities and hobbies.
- Regular visits to the local library.
- Outings to all kinds of places of social, historic or nature interest.
- The kind of imaginative play that comes naturally to children of all ages.

Monitoring of homework

It is important to understand that teachers have no control over what happens at home. Teachers cannot force children to complete homework. Home life is busy and varied, with many children engaging in after school activities and sport. These activities are important and provide children with fantastic learning opportunities that they could not experience at school.

We understand that parents are busy and time poor, however, homework is the responsibility of the home. Learning to manage time, particularly in the senior years, is one of the benefits of homework, and as such can only be managed by parents at home.

Teachers will partner with families to communicate and support establishing good learning habits at home. For example, teachers will contact parents/carers if a student has not completed homework for two consecutive weeks. Equally, please reach out to your child's class teacher if there are issues regarding the completion of homework within a particular week.

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EVALUATION

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

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