

Homework Policy



Holy Family is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

Rationale

At Holy Family we believe that there is strong evidence and general agreement that homework at the primary school level has little impact on academic performance.¹ However, we recognise that it may play a transitional role in preparing students for secondary school and beyond.²

Homework provides senior primary students with opportunities to reinforce and consolidate their classroom learning, develop skills and establish disciplined behaviours to develop as lifelong learners and, to some degree, involve family members in student learning. It also provides a means of communication between the school and parents about their child's learning and progress.

Aims

The aims of homework at Holy Family are:

- to strengthen home-school connections and reaffirm the role of parents and guardians as partners in education
- to develop positive study habits, concentration, discipline and organisational skills⁶
- to understand that learning takes place in different environments
- to assist the students in developing responsibility
- to reinforce and enrich the students' learning process

Implementation

- Homework time will vary in duration and frequency according to the age of students.
- Parents are advised of homework expectations at the beginning of each school year and are provided with a copy of the school's Homework Policy in The Parent Handbook and the School Website.
- Classroom teachers will set homework as appropriate to each year level (See Appendix a).
- Homework is designed to complement the class curriculum and independent student learning goals.
- Homework will be monitored by teachers, including weekly signing of diaries/ log books in order to provide timely and relevant feedback.
- It is the student's responsibility, under the guidance of parents, to ensure homework is completed on time and to a satisfactory standard.
- Parents will be contacted if required where homework is not completed.
- Parents are encouraged to report to the child's teacher any concerns regarding the nature and quantity of homework, or any other homework concerns.

Setting student's up for Success in homework

Families can help students by encouraging them to:

- read for the prescribed amount of time each night and record this in their log/diary
- hand in their reading diaries/logs each week for the classroom teacher to sign
- take responsibility for choosing their level of engagement in reading
- use technology responsibly
- bring completed work to school by the due date
- ask their teacher or parents if they are having difficulty understanding a task or need assistance.
- have a positive attitude towards homework
- engage in time-management in order to meet homework deadlines with undue stress
- complete and submit the homework.

Homework Expectations at Holy Family

	Reading	Other	Allocated Time
Prep Students	Nightly reading which may include being read to, by parents/guardians. Reading aloud and sharing stories from borrowed library books. Independent reading of take home books.	Home School Bags (optional)	10 minutes per night
Levels 1 & 2 students	Nightly reading which may include being read to, by parents/guardians. Independent reading of take home books or books borrowed from the library. Reading aloud and sharing stories from borrowed library books.	Home School Bags (optional)	10 - 15 minutes
Levels 3 & 4 students	Nightly reading which may include being read to, by parents/guardians. Independent reading. Reading aloud and sharing stories from borrowed library books.	Home School Bags (optional)	15 - 20 minutes
Levels 5 & 6 students	Nightly independent reading which may include the use of audio texts, and preparation for Literature Circles.	Homework activities at this level will be linked to the classroom program and will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nightly reading • A reading response • A numeracy task to support students to master basic number facts, automatic recall of times tables and accuracy in mental and written calculations • A Religious Education response. 	20 minutes reading 20 minutes other
<p>All students, prep to year 6 will be expected to record their nightly reading in a logbook (Prep-2) diary (Levels 3-6). Parents and guardians will be required to monitor and sign off on the nightly reading. Note that home reading is included in the Work Habits section of student reports.</p>			

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as a part of the 4 year cycle

References

- 1 Professor John Hattie, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, Transcript of evidence – Inquiry into the approaches to homework in Victorian Schools, Melbourne, 29 April 2014,
- 2 Professor Mike Horsley, Co-author of 'Reforming Homework', Central Queensland University, Transcript of evidence – Inquiry into the approaches to homework in Victorian Schools, Melbourne, 28 April 2014, 31.
- 3 Nicole Schrat Carr, 'Increasing the effectiveness of homework for all learners in the inclusive classroom' (2013) 1(23) School Community Journal 169, 176.
- 4 Parliament of Victoria, Education and Training Committee 2014, Inquiry into the approaches to homework in Victorian Schools, Parliamentary Paper, p 40-41.
- 5 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (Victoria), School policy & advisory guide: Homework Expectations, viewed 7 November 2014.
- 6 Mr Chris Thompson, Director Priority Projects Branch, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Transcript of evidence - Inquiry into the approaches to homework in Victorian schools, Melbourne, 28 April 2014, 2
- 7 Reading to Young Children: A Head-Start in Life, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Melbourn University
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/readtoyoungchild.pdf>
- 8 Homework guidelines: Victorian State Government Education and Training
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx>
- 9 Inquiry into Approaches to Homework in Victoria, Parliamentary Paper 2014
- 10 Reading for Pleasure: A research Overview, Clark, Rumbold, National Literacy Trust 2006
http://www.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/swf/i/Reading_for_pleasure.swf