



"To Live, To Love, To Grow In Christ"

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PO Box 40030, CASUARINA, NT 0811 | Phone (08) 89273411 | ABN: 49 758 636 720 | Email: admin.holyspirit@nt.catholic.edu.au

Homework Policy

At Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, we are aware that families have varying expectations regarding homework and have a range of commitments outside the school environment. The Homework Policy at Holy Spirit is a guide for teachers, parents and carers in helping children with homework.

The purpose of homework is:

- To provide opportunities for parents, students and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- To reinforce and support what the students are learning at school.
- To encourage students and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Encourage students to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline to undertake study habits independently.
- Ensure consistency across the school.
- To use homework that is appropriate as an opportunity to raise achievement standards.
- To develop appropriate levels of independence in students appropriate with their stage of development.

What does Homework look like?

Generally, homework will include a revision of work being undertaken in class, including spelling/sight words/reading and numeracy work. This may vary from time to time and in the older years may include project work, revision and further reading.

Homework is an opportunity for our learners to:

- Make connections
- Set goals
- Monitor success against given criteria
- Implement strategies that help them to move forward with their learning

Expectations of Teachers:

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- Setting homework on a regular basis:
 - Homework will be provided by classroom teachers;
 - Reading, spelling, sight words, literacy and numeracy to be undertaken by parents at home;
 - A clear explanation of homework will be shared with families from classroom teachers/year level areas;
 - Homework may be completed over a number of weeks or throughout school term in the form of projects that support learning at school;
 - Homework grids may be used by year level teachers that can be completed over the course of the term that support learning at school;
 - Individual teachers may provide homework on a Friday to enable completion schedule to include a weekend
- How homework looks is at the discretion of classroom teachers with information around this shared and communicated

- We work in partnership in providing homework for our children
- Clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
- Checking homework regularly and providing timely and useful feedback;
- Using homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs;
- Explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through homework;
- Giving consideration when setting homework to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other); and
- Discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with homework.

Expectations of Students:

- Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:
- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks;
- Following up on comments made by teachers;
- Seeking assistance if difficulties arise; and
- Developing an understanding of the value that homework can bring to their learning outcomes. (Please note that these expectations will vary dependent on age of student)

Expectations of Parents:

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- Reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity;
- Helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources;
- Encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning;
- Encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events;
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities; and
- Parents are responsible of the management and completion of homework.

Homework appropriate to particular phases of learning

The following is to operate as a guide in determining the amount of set homework that students might be expected to undertake. It is of course open to parents to consult with a student's teacher about additional materials or practice exercised with which parents can assist their children at home

Year Level	Expectations per day	Requirements
Transition	15 minutes (this includes 10 minutes reading practice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jolly Phonics revision ➤ Reading, spelling and numeracy ➤ Daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or other family members ➤ Linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings ➤ Conversations about what is happening at school ➤ Computer Literacy (logging on, word documents and Dance Mat Typing)
Year 1	15 minutes (this includes 10 minutes reading practice)	
Year 2	20 minutes (this includes 10 minutes reading practice)	
Year 3	25 minutes (this includes 15 minutes reading practice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading, spelling, numeracy and cross curricula activities ➤ At least one Lexile quiz per week ➤ Studdy Ladder ➤ Preparation for oral presentations ➤ Opportunities to write for meaningful purposes ➤ Computer Literacy (email, touch typing and PowerPoint)
Year 4		
Year 5	30 minutes (this includes 15 minutes reading practice)	
Year 6		

Please note that these are recommended times only. For families who request additional homework there is a range of web-based and online learning activities that can be accessed in addition to what has been provided. Origo has a link that can provide additional homework for parents at home. (Please see your child's teacher for an updated list). Visits to the local library will also provide additional resources to access in learning activities.

Homework is provided for all students each week however teachers will not be implementing consequences for homework not completed. Teachers cannot influence what occurs in the home environment. It is the responsibility of the parent (with the child) to ensure homework is completed

Where homework demands interfere with harmony within the family, families are asked to discuss issues around homework with their child's teacher.

Homework when students are absent from school due to holidays:

Families often request homework for children when they are absent due to holidays. Our policy recommends that homework out of context and without explicit teaching and feedback is not effective. Classroom teachers will not provide additional homework where family holiday occurs during school time. Any homework undertaken during family holiday time is to be overseen by parents/carers. On return from holidays teachers will not be reviewing or marking homework as set by parents/carers.

During holidays children benefit best by:

- Reading each day – literature/books/resources provided by family that suit student needs
- Basic maths skills – such as mental maths, using money, reading timetables and itineraries
- Keeping a diary or writing emails, letters recording events and activities each day
- Keeping a journal (written, digital) documenting reflection of their experiences.
- Recording budget items such as the cost of fares/petrol/accommodation/food and completing activities around making comparisons, justifying choices and selecting options.
- Collecting brochures for additional reading and visits to the local library will also provide additional resources to access in learning activities.

Classroom teachers will not set homework for students where holidays occur during term calendar.

Review:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle
- This policy was last ratified by School Board on 25th March 2021
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year cycle (March 2024)