



Our Lady of the Rosary

Homework Policy and Guidelines

Purpose

The homework policy at Our Lady of the Rosary School considers the needs and developmental phase of students as well as considering the circumstances of twenty-first-century families.

At Our Lady of the Rosary School, we acknowledge that the time children spend with their families and their involvement in out of school activities, are important components in the development of the whole child. In determining homework, it is important to consider that students may be engaging in many different activities and commitments outside of school.

Learning Through Homework

Hattie (2008) argues that homework is more effective for students in secondary schooling, as compared to students in primary school. Further, short and frequent homework is more effective than lengthy homework (Hattie, 2008).

Homework can be effective in supporting learning if it:

- Is short, frequent and monitored by the teacher
- Is appropriate and adapted to particular years of schooling in line with the relevant curriculum
- Is clearly related to classwork
- Is used to facilitate the achievement of learning outcomes
- Is varied and differentiated to individual learning needs and reflects the diverse needs of students
- Is supported by the explicit teaching of the dispositions and skills associated with being able to learn independently
- Consolidates students' classroom learning
- Assists students to prepare for upcoming classroom learning
- Refrains from requiring dependence on unreasonable levels of parental assistance or resources that are not readily available to the student
- Allows time for family, recreational, community and cultural activities
- Is achievable and leads to an increase in students' self-confidence
- Homework should be a positive experience for students, parents and teachers
- Homework should allow parents to engage in the learning process with their child to demonstrate positive attitudes to learning.

School Homework Approach

The development of this approach to homework considers information and from research and guidelines regarding homework from across Australia. Homework should be focussed on positive, productive and supported learning which is aligned to the Australian Curriculum. There is a strong focus on reading.

Homework will relate directly to the learning and teaching programs appropriate to the needs of students. As such, homework will be linked to the current work of the students and relate to the short and timely planning cycles for students using a differentiated approach. Teachers are responsible for setting, marking and providing feedback to students related to homework. Homework should consider outside school hours activities, recreation and family time, community and cultural activities. Homework should be a positive experience for students, parents and teachers.

Year Level Guidelines Prep:

- Homework expectations should not exceed 10 mins per night
- Practising literacy skills e.g. high-frequency word recognition and reading books

Years 1-2:

- Homework expectations not to exceed 15 mins
- Practising literacy skills e.g. reading, high-frequency words and spelling words
- Drill and practise previously introduced skills

Year 3-4:

- Homework expectations not to exceed 20 mins
- Practising literacy skills e.g. reading, high-frequency words and spelling words
- Drill and practise of previously introduced skills

Year 5-6:

- Homework expectations not to exceed 30 mins
- Practising literacy skills e.g. Independent reading and spelling words
- Drill and practise of previously introduced skills
- Preparation for and completion of classwork as required

For further information on the effectiveness of homework for students see:

Hattie, J. (2008). *Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement*, Routledge, New York.

Hattie, J. (2012). *Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximising impact on Learning*, Routledge, New York.

Horsely, M. & Walker, R. (2012). *Reforming Homework: Practices, Learning and Policies*, Palgrave Macmillan, Melbourne