



St Joseph's School ~ Renmark

Home Learning Policy



Rationale

The School Community values Home Learning because it provides an opportunity for parents and children to interact and discuss work being done in class. At the same time, we all recognise that families have varied commitments. Some children engage in activities after school, which they are not able to access during school hours.

Many in our community feel that developing a sense of personal responsibility for study sets up good habits for the future. We balance this with an understanding that it is also important to value play time and relaxation time - both vital to our personal and social development.

Our community supports the routine of Home Learning and has expressed the importance of developing reading skills with all students.

Beliefs

We believe that Home Learning provides the opportunity for:

- Positive interaction between family members.
- Providing parents with knowledge of areas of study in the classroom.
- The development of independent study habits.
- Children to work at their own pace and experience success.

Aims

Teachers

- Promote reading every night as the practice of reading helps develop many literacy skills.
- Ensure that Home Learning relates to classroom activities.
- Ensure that instructions are clear and explicit.
- Be consistent in their approach to Home Learning (including informing parents of individual class routines).
- Ensure students have the skills to enable them to complete Home Learning that is expected of them.

Parents

- To offer an environment for the child where supervision, encouragement and help are provided.
- To respect the child's knowledge and skills.
- To communicate with the teacher and sign the Reading & Learning Journal each night to indicate Home Learning is either complete or not complete and why.
- To communicate to teachers the time taken to complete Home Learning and any concerns they may have.

Students

- Accept responsibility for the completion of their Home Learning and complete tasks to the best of their ability.
- Ask for help from teacher and family if necessary.
- Ensure the work is handed in for marking.

Length of time for Home Learning

When coming to a decision about the length of time to be allocated for children regarding Home Learning, there are many factors to consider:

- The same piece of work may take different children a varied amount of time.
- The same amount of time may create more stress in some families / for some students.
- Many teachers set work that is not expected the next day. Rather, it would be expected at the end of the week or at another time. This gives students the opportunity to do more on some nights and less on others, as their home life demands. This management of time is an important life skill.
- A parent is in the best position to know when their child has done enough, is stressed or is not able to complete work. A student will not be expected to complete Home Learning where a note from the parents / guardians is received. The exception to this is where non-completion of Home Learning is due to poor time management.

***All students are expected to read each night.
Home Learning is not normally set for Weekends.***

Early Years (Yr R/1/2) students - mainly reading, but may also include irregular High Frequency Words (HFW) and decodable words, or maths work, no more than 15 - 20 minutes each night.

Primary Years (Yr 3/4/5) students - mainly reading, but may also include spelling words and spelling activities, or maths work, no more than 30 minutes each night.

Middle Years (Yr 6) students - should spend no more than 60 minutes each night.

Students may need to negotiate with their teacher regarding due dates if they have a regular / irregular commitment after school and Home Learning is unable to be completed that night.

Signed:

Chairperson School Board: *Steve Atkinson* May 2024

Principal: *Don DePalma* May 2024

Policy Review Date: May 2024

Next Review Date: May 2027