



# St Joseph's School WONTHAGGI

## ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

### Rationale

*The provision of homework by schools aims to achieve two major purposes:*

- 1. Improve the learning achievement of students**
- 2. Provide opportunities for parental engagement in their child's learning to strengthen the family/school partnership**

(PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO APPROACHES TO HOMEWORK IN VICTORIAN SCHOOLS, SUBMISSION by CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION VICTORIA)

Research shows that there is negligible academic benefit from formal homework tasks:

***"When related to stages of schooling the consensus of the available research is that homework has little or no benefit for students in the primary years..."*** (PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO APPROACHES TO HOMEWORK IN VICTORIAN SCHOOLS, SUBMISSION by CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION VICTORIA)

Our staff has concluded:

The time teachers spend setting up, checking and correcting homework and parents spend supervising and encouraging or enforcing homework tasks adds very little to no value to teaching and learning.

There are significant time constraints on the busy lives of our families and it is not desirable to increase pressure on families by assigning homework tasks that are ineffective and have little benefit.

There is however, great value in children reading regularly at home.

Reading is one of the most important skills a person can acquire.

Reading underpins and is fundamental to all learning and communication.

Reading builds self esteem and empathy.

(The Long-Term Effects of Skipping Your Reading Homework, By Pamela DeLoatch)

We believe in the value of

- Children reading to themselves,
- Children reading to others,
- Children being read to,
- Children reading with others.

Discussing texts with children facilitates their improvement in reading comprehension and critical thinking.

A consistent approach is applied across the school.

## **Aim**

To encourage improvement in students' reading;

- Skills
- Comprehension
- Fluency

To encourage students to read for;

- Enjoyment
- Interest
- Learning

To promote a connectedness and partnership between school and home.

## **Implementation**

Every student at St Joseph's School is expected to spend some time engaged in reading tasks regularly throughout the week at home.

Reading tasks might involve:

- Students reading to themselves,
- Students reading to others,
- Students being read to,
- Students reading with others.
- Students discussing texts read with others

Junior students should spend 10-15 minutes a night reading while Senior students should spend 15-30 minutes a night reading. We encourage all students to read as much as possible from a variety of texts.

Every student will be provided with a Reading Diary in which to record their home reading.

Teachers will review the students' reading diaries regularly.

Students will be provided with level appropriate books to read or may source their own suitable reading material.

Parents are encouraged to participate in reading activities with their children.

Participation might involve:

- Reading to your child
- Reading with your child
- Listening to your child read
- Providing a quiet space and time for your child to read
- Talking to your child about what they are reading
- Asking questions about the texts your child is reading to promote critical thinking
- Encouraging your child to read a variety of texts
- Sign the reader

## **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed in December 2024.