



Queen of Apostles School

HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONALE

Queen of Apostles School believes that homework is a part of the whole school learning program and an important aspect of primary school education. It helps maintain communication between the school and home on the child's academic growth and reinforces basic skills and concepts taught in class. Homework should be regular, relaxed and non-threatening. Children should be given homework, which involves familiar concepts or skills. Teachers may vary in the content given for homework depending on the needs of the children and the type of work covered in each year level. Homework should provide a time for parents to positively reinforce and encourage their children's efforts. Children need to be given time to relax and recharge after a busy day at school, therefore, time out to play and become involved in extra-curricular activities is seen as important in the development of an active, balanced and healthy lifestyle. Children need to take responsibility for the completion of set homework. The school values and understands that family and special occasions may mean that homework is not always completed and that these are also important learning experiences.

PRINCIPLES

Students will:

- Demonstrate independence and ownership of their own learning.
- Review class work and accept responsibility for completing unfinished tasks set in school time.
- Confidently complete clear, relevant and purposeful homework assignments.
- Demonstrate an understanding of concepts taught in class to complete set homework.
- Develop a routine which supports regular, independent study habits.

PROCEDURES

1. Homework will be set to be completed by students from Monday to Thursday. If students chose to complete homework over a weekend, it is at their discretion.
2. Students in Year 6 will be provided with more independent activities for homework, which aim to prepare them for High School. This may involve research, assignments, individual learning area work and finishing class work.
3. Students in Years 1 – 5 will be required to complete a Homework Grid, based on the research of Ian Lillico, over the course of a two week period.
4. One aspect of the grid is for students to read to a parent on a nightly basis.
5. Students in the Junior Primary may also be required to complete Spelling/Sightword Lists on a nightly basis.

6. The Homework Grid should incorporate opportunities for families to participate in other commitments such as sport and recreational activities.
7. The Homework Grid should broaden the types of activities that children are asked to complete giving them life skills as well as academic opportunity to cope with life beyond home and school.
8. Activities included in the Homework Grid encompass:
 - Reading (both independent and being read to)
 - Reflecting knowledge from classroom programs
 - Physical Activity (walking the dog, kicking a football)
 - Housework/Chores and Shopping
 - Art Appreciation (eg drawing, needlework, scrapbooking etc)
 - Family Activities (eg playing a board game)
 - Assignments/Project Research
 - Meditation/Spiritual Relaxation (eg prayer time, attending Mass)
 - Cultural Appreciation (eg playing a musical instrument, attending a concert)
9. Homework Grids will be targeted to specific year levels and will not only develop self-discipline and pride in academic achievements but also the formation of good habits, responsibility, positive family interactions and increased physical activity.
10. Homework is a means of forming good habits for later life and to encourage self-discipline, self-reliance and a greater sense of responsibility.
11. Students in Years 1 and 2 should be completing about 20 minutes per night
12. Students in Years 3 and 4 should be completing about 30 minutes per night
13. Students in Years 5 and 6 should be completing between 45 minutes to 1 hour each night.
14. The classroom teacher will explain and ensure that all students clearly understand the expectations of completing their homework.
15. Parents should be encouraged to provide a comfortable, well lit and quiet place in which their child completes homework.
16. Year 5 and 6 students should be using Student Diaries to help remind them of tasks needing to be completed. Parents must check diaries regularly and teachers sign them once a week.
17. Homework grids must be signed by parents and given to the teacher by the due date.
18. If homework is unable to be completed parents are to provide a note to the teacher informing them of this or if the student is finding the set homework difficult, discuss this with the classroom teacher.
19. The teacher will communicate any concerns regarding homework to parents.
20. Each teacher's Homework Plan shall be consistent with the principles and procedures outlined in this policy.
21. The principles of this policy need to be presented at the Parent Teacher Information night.