HOMEWORK POLICY

"Homework is purposeful out-of-school learning that seeks to enhance the extent to which each child benefits from the school's educational program."

(Zammit, 1999, p.6)

Belief Statement:

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School community values homework as a means of building partnerships between teachers, students and parent. As well as work set by teachers, some activities provided by the family are recognised as valued "purposeful out-of-class learning". These includes such activities as sports participation, family excursions, supervised computer interactions and television watching, learning musical instruments, singing, family discussions and travel.

At Sacred Heart, we believe that homework is important to:

Facilitate:
- the development of good study habits, time management and organizational skills.
- parental awareness of the development of skills and abilities.
- the development of active learners.
- the development of self-directed learners

And to:
- practise and refine skills taught in the classroom.
- build confidence.
- practise goal setting and develop responsibility.
- share the school learning experience with parents.
- continue learning at home
- develop communication between students, parents and teachers.
- pursue extra and special activities.

Homework in practice

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

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 exercises with which parents can assist their children at home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Expectations per day</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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| Transition | 15 minutes (this includes 10 minutes reading practice) | - 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 |
| Year 1     | 15 minutes (this includes 10 minutes reading practice) | |
| Year 2     | 20 minutes (this includes 10 minutes of reading practice) | |

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3/4</th>
<th>25 minutes (this includes 15 minutes of reading practice)</th>
<th>- conversations about what is happening at school</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading, spelling, numeracy and cross curricula activities.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- preparation for oral presentations</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- opportunities to write for meaningful purposes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 5/6</td>
<td>30 minutes (this includes 15 minutes of reading practice)</td>
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Teachers will set homework on a regular basis though not generally in the first or last weeks of each term.

Although homework is mandated for all students, 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 their child) to ensure homework is completed. Students who complete homework will receive feedback on their efforts and this will be noted in their end of semester report. Families will be advised if homework is not completed and it is requested that family sign this communication and return to school. Where homework interferes with harmony within the family, families are asked to discuss the content of the 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. During holidays children benefit best by:

- Keeping a diary or writing emails, letters recording events and activities each day.
- Keeping a journal (written, digital) documenting reflections 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.

**Implications:**

**Teacher Responsibilities:**
- to clearly communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework expectations to students and families.
- checking homework regularly and providing timely and useful feedback;
- to provide interesting, challenging homework with a balance of open-ended, practical and creative activities.
- to take into account the out-of-school lives of the individual students and to be flexible and sensitive in the setting of homework
- to set homework that facilitates the above and not to set homework that involves the introduction of unfamiliar ideas, concepts, processes and skills
- discuss with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child’s homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.

**Student responsibilities:**
- to understand the purpose and scope of the homework assignment.
- to ask for help from teachers and parents if needed.
- to attempt activities with maximum effort.
- to return the homework to school at the agreed time.

**Parent responsibilities:**
- to understand that homework is any purposeful out-of-class learning activity that seeks to enhance the extent to which each child benefits from the school's educational program.
- to read to and with children, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity.

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- to provide encouragement and support for homework efforts.
- to provide a comfortable, quiet, well-lit homework area away from distractions.
- to provide appropriate materials such as writing pencils/pens, coloured pencils, eraser, ruler.
- to confer with teachers regarding concerns.

Signed:_________________________ Date: ___________ Signed:_________________________

Board Chair Principal

Policy to be reviewed 2019

Homework Policy 2016