

Holy Spirit School

Homework Policy

At Holy Spirit School, student learning and student welfare is central to everything we do. In developing a school Homework Policy, our approach has been to develop a policy that considers the latest research on the value of homework on student learning as well as clarifying school community expectations while utilising collaborative decision-making processes.

For our purposes in developing this policy, homework is defined as **“any task assigned by school teachers, intended for students to carry out during non-school hours, designed to meet specific learning goals”**. Most research concludes that, for primary school students, there is little or no evidence that homework lifts academic performance. For students in the younger years of Primary and for students with learning difficulties, the research is very clear in showing there is no evidence of improved learning from completing homework. However, research also indicates that homework does provide students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning. Because of this, homework will be set by teachers at Holy Spirit following appropriate guidelines designed to consolidate aspects of classroom learning.

To ensure it has a clear purpose, homework at Holy Spirit must be relevant to the learning needs of our students. Our Policy details our purpose, expectations and responses to issues relating to the quality and manageability of homework; the appropriateness and the age-specific considerations (including time) relating to homework and the roles and responsibilities of students, teachers and parents in regards to this homework.

Purpose

At Holy Spirit School, homework will be given to students based on the following factors and expectations. We believe homework needs to enhance student learning. As such, it must be appropriate for each student’s age and ability and relevant to each student’s learning needs. It must be purposeful and designed to meet these specific learning needs. It needs to be engaging and challenging but also achievable and supported by teacher strategies such as feedback.

The key purposes of homework at Holy Spirit will be:

- supporting reading for all students
- reinforcing and revising current classroom learning
- supporting parental awareness of student learning
- developing study habits and time management for upper Primary students

Guidelines

To ensure we have a consistent approach to homework at Holy Spirit, we will follow these guidelines:

1. All students will participate in an appropriate amount of reading at home each day.
2. Some Maths concepts relevant to student learning needs will be covered in middle and upper grades.
3. Some revision and reinforcement of classroom learning may be undertaken by middle and upper grades.

Prep, Years 1 and 2:	Reading (to, with and by), Sight Word revision as part of Reading - (maximum 15 minutes per day)
Years 3 and 4:	Reading, Maths Concepts, Some Revision - (maximum 20 minutes per day)
Year 5 and 6:	Reading, Maths Concepts, Revision and Reinforcement - (maximum 30 minutes per day)

Responsibilities

The key stakeholders (students, teachers and parents) will ensure they support the Holy Spirit Homework Policy by undertaking the following responsibilities:

- **Students**

At Holy Spirit, our students need to engage positively with their homework and consistently complete work to the best of their ability.

- **Teachers**

Teachers will have active involvement in setting engaging and relevant homework which caters for student needs appropriate to age and ability. They will assess, monitor and provide feedback on this homework. The teacher will offer positive reinforcement to support their student's learning.

- **Parents**

Parents offer their children support with homework, monitor their work and engage with their reading. They provide a positive environment which supports their child's learning. Homework should not add to the pressure of family life but be organised to fit appropriately into family time outside school hours. Ongoing communication with the teacher is a vital aspect of the homework process.

Summary

The purpose of homework at Holy Spirit is to support student learning and to provide students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning. Teachers will set appropriate homework and will ensure feedback on the child's homework based on factors such as relevance, learning expectations and time. Parents will monitor their children's homework, support their learning and provide feedback to teachers regarding their child's learning.

Purposeful and relevant homework is to be completed by all students unless prior arrangements for the amount, type or time taken are in place as discussed with teaching staff. Teachers, in consultation with school leadership, will make appropriate arrangements to support the completion of homework by students.