



HOME LEARNING POLICY

The Home Learning policy has been developed to reflect current research and thinking revolving around the manner in which students best learn out of the classroom. Professor John Hattie, of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education has found that homework has no effect on the progress of primary school children. Trials and surveys conducted at St Joseph's in 2015 highlighted the benefits of not having structured formal homework.

Reading is a compulsory home learning activity across the school for all students. The focus of reading varies from home readers which consolidate a student's fluency, phrasing and expression in the early years to independent reading of a variety of material for more capable readers. Reading is a vital life skill which underpins learning. At St Joseph's students are encouraged to develop a life-long love of reading.

Stage	Compulsory Reading Structure	Time Guide
Early Stage One (Kindergarten)	Reading aloud of easy texts.	5-10 minutes per night
Stage One (Years 1 & 2)	Reading aloud of easy texts.	5-15 minutes per night
Stage Two (Years 3 & 4)	Independent reading.	15-30 minutes per night
Stage Three (Years 5 & 6)	Self-directed independent reading.	20 + minutes per night

SIGHT WORDS (KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS)

- In English there are 100 frequently occurring words that make up, on average, half the words found in reading and writing. If the children master these words it makes the task of reading and writing so much easier. The children will be introduced to these words throughout the year.
- The words will be sent home for your child to practice.
- On Monday the children will bring home a list of the Gold words. Spend a few moments each night going over these words.
- Sight word knowledge will be checked each week and a sheet showing which words they do and do not know will be sent home.

- Once your child can read their words fluently, they will be given a new coloured sight word list to practice.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE:

- Athletics (all students have access to this program)
- Study Ladder (all students have access to this program)
- Reading Eggs
- Work set by teacher (spelling, news items, contracts, research, ICT, etc.)

Home learning should be a purposeful learning experience, which provides consolidation and revision of key concepts and skills taught in class. Teachers will mark any set written home learning tasks.

Reviewed 2018