HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONALE

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Homework is an opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Homework helps students develop organisational and time management skills, self-discipline, skills in using out of school resources and personal responsibility for learning. A parent's interest in a child's homework will help teach the most important lesson of all – that learning can be fun both at school and at home.

Homework can bring parents and educators closer together. Parents who actively work with their child on homework learn about their child's education and about the school. Homework needs to be a positive experience that encourages children to learn.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

The following list of homework activities are a combination of parent and teacher ideas for homework, Prep – 6. It incorporates what children need to do for homework, as well as what they like to do :-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior (Prep – 2)</th>
<th>Middle (Year 3-4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reading</td>
<td>• Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Maths (a combination of hands on/practical worksheets)</td>
<td>• Maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Spelling</td>
<td>• Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Games &amp; home based activity</td>
<td>• Social Component – Cooking, shopping, board games, parent involvement,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Art based</td>
<td>• Projects (incorporates creative side)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Parent involvement</td>
<td>• Computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Physical Ed</td>
<td>• Physical Activity – PE practice, outdoor activity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Senior (Year 5-6)
- Reading
- Maths (individual based activity)
- Spelling and/or writing
- Computer
- Project work
- Religion (MJR)
- Social component (parent involvement) – cooking/helping at home, board games/shopping, discussion/reflection time focused activity
- Home Based - (Extra curricular) – sports teams, musical instrument, second language

EXPECTATIONS OF THE STUDENT

Students need to be aware of the importance of homework. Students should always be aware that homework should be completed to a high standard. The use of homework diaries is strongly encouraged for children in Year 3 – 6.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE SCHOOL/TEACHER

Junior
- Reading every night
- Revision of work covered within class
- Open ended hands on tasks across the curriculum
- Directions which are clear and short
- Incentives for completed work
- To monitor that the homework has been completed

Middle
- Reading every night
- Achievable and independent tasks
- Open ended tasks across the curriculum
- A follow up discussion at school signed and dated
- Clear directions
• Incentives for completed work
• To monitor that the homework has been completed and to ensure it is corrected promptly as a form of feedback to the student/family

Senior
• Reading every night
• Applying skills and strategies from class
• Evaluating skills and strategies from class
• Achievable and independent tasks
• Open ended tasks across the curriculum
• A follow up discussion at school signed and dated
• Incentives for completed work
• To monitor that the homework has been completed and to ensure it is corrected promptly as a form of feedback to the student/family

EXPECTATIONS OF THE HOME/ PARENT

At Our Lady Help of Christians we encourage all parents to participate in their children’s learning by working in partnership with us on homework tasks.
Parents are encouraged to:
• Provide a suitable quiet place for their child to work e.g. away from TV & providing basic materials such as pen, paper, dictionary, etc
• Establish and maintain routines by finding a regular time to complete homework
• Check and monitor children’s understanding of homework
• Return homework by due date and sign if required.
• Ensure work is completed satisfactorily
• Show an interest in your child’s learning by talking about school and activities they have completed
• Continue to praise your child’s efforts
• Model completing tasks like reading, writing, and doing things that requires thought and effort as children learn by example
• Monitor computer & hand held games, content and usage.
• Write a note to the teacher if homework is not completed

HOMEWORK GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

All Year Levels
• No formal homework on weekends. However we encourage children to read and spend time interacting with their family.
• From time to time children may be involved in research work and special school activities which may require additional time to be spent on the task
• In the event of special school events, homework is OBVIOUSLY waived for the night.

Junior
• An average of 20 mins per night, Monday-Thursday, this includes reading (10mins) & text discussion (5mins)

Middle
• An average of 30mins per night, Monday-Thursday, this includes reading (10-15mins) & text discussion (5-10mins)

Senior
• An average of 40mins per night, Monday-Thursday, this includes reading (15-20min) & text discussion (5-10mins)

EVALUATION

Homework is a vital part of a child’s learning and needs to be meaningful and valued by all parties (i.e. students, teachers & parents). It is an avenue whereby parents guide their children to complete tasks set by their classroom’s teacher. Homework is designed to reinforce the valuable skills that students are learning in class.

A balanced life for our students will involve participation in both extra-curricular activities and homework.

Drafted: March 2009