# Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

## Homework Policy

**Rationale:**

At Our Lady Help Of Christians School we believe Homework assists students by:
- Complementing and reinforcing classroom learning at home
- Communicating with parents the learning that is currently taking place at school
- Fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- Providing an extra opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Homework is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child’s education. It can bring parents and educators closer together. A parent’s interest in a child’s homework will help teach the most important lesson of all – that learning is a lifelong skill that happens at school and at home. Parents who actively work with their child on homework learn about their child’s education and about school life. Homework always needs to be a positive experience that encourages children to learn.

**Implementation:**

## TYPES OF HOMEWORK

### ALL YEAR LEVELS – GENERAL GUIDELINES

- No formal homework on weekends. However we encourage children to read and spend time interacting with their families as sharing family experiences is a vital component of learning.
- From time to time the children may be involved in research work and special school activities which may require additional time be spent on a task
- In the event of special school events, homework is obviously waived for the night

As a general guide:
- Homework consists of reading. Reading is encouraged each night of the week.
- There may also be a task to complete.
- There may also be unfinished work to complete.
- There will generally not be Specialist teacher homework to complete.

Foundation:
- Junior (Year 1 and 2) Weekly homework – Approximately 15 minutes each night.
- Middle (Year 3 and 4) Weekly homework – Approximately 20 minutes each night.
- Senior (Year 5 and 6) Weekly homework – Approximately 30 minutes each night.

The following list of homework activities are a combination of parent and teacher ideas for homework, Foundation – Year 6.

It incorporates what children need to do for homework, as well as what they enjoy doing for homework:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation</th>
<th>Junior (Year 1 – 2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Words sight practise</td>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(reading and writing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter / Sound recognition</td>
<td>Maths (a combination of hands on and</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>practical activities)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number Book</td>
<td>Spelling and/or Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Reading</td>
<td>Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inquiry</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middle (Year 3-4)</th>
<th>Senior (Year 5-6)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Maths (individual based activity)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling and/or Writing</td>
<td>Spelling and/or writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Computer / ICT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inquiry</td>
<td>Religion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Inquiry</td>
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</tbody>
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**Other recommended Homework activities – Foundation to Year 6**

- Drawing, art, cooking, board games, discussion, reflection time, sporting activity
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 4 - 6. Students need to communicate with the teacher before the due date if they are encountering any difficulties with the homework task. It is an expectation that all children complete set homework to the best of their ability. If homework is not completed and there is no parental communication, this will be followed up by the classroom teacher.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE SCHOOL/TEACHER

Foundation
- Reading every night
- Hands on tasks

Junior
- Reading every night
- Revision of work covered within class
- Directions which are clear and short
- To monitor that the homework has been completed and corrected

Middle
- Reading every night
- Achievable and independent tasks
- A follow up discussion at school signed and dated
- Clear directions
- 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
- That directions to complete a task will be clear
- Applying skills and strategies from class
- Evaluating skills and strategies from class
- Achievable and independent tasks
- A follow up discussion at school signed and dated
- 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
- Remind children to 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
- Write a note to the teacher if homework is not completed

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 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 extra-curricular activities, activities with families and homework.

This policy was last ratified by OLHC School Staff Term 2 2015