Homework at St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Blackall means different things to different people. In principle, homework is about school and parents working together as a team to provide a balanced framework for each child to experience diverse experiences as part of their healthy family life.

At St. Joseph’s we define homework as the completion, outside of normal school hours, of meaningful and worthwhile practical life skills, fitness, health, cultural, spiritual and academic learning experiences for our children. A broad range of age appropriate activities are proposed for children in each year level.

It is acknowledged that there is a need to achieve balance between work, play and family activities. Homework is designed to contribute to positive family relationships and healthy living.

Homework is to positively contribute to each child’s holistic personal development. Homework at St Joseph’s School is understood to be a balance of family life, extra-curricula activities and the consolidation and extension of school based learning.

Homework is seen as an essential part of the education of each child. Homework is compulsory for all students from Years 1 to 7. It is given to reinforce concepts taught in class, to develop a sense of responsibility in our children, provide feedback to parents/guardians on what has been taught and to develop good study habits.
The format of homework is characterised by compulsory and non-compulsory components. Activities including reading, sight words, spelling and mathematics are all compulsory and will be directed by the class teacher with active monitoring by the parent/guardian. Students in Years 6 & 7 may be required to engage in assignment/project tasks during Semester Two.

Teachers are to inform parents and children of their classroom routines and expectations in the area of homework. Teachers are to monitor the completion of compulsory activities and provide opportunities for children to give feedback on their other homework activities.

**Homework at St. Joseph’s is intended:**
- To complement family life.
- To build a love of learning and reading
- To provide an opportunity to promote personal growth and development
- To foster the development of organizational skills, time management skills, interrelationship skills and practical life skills.
- To revise and consolidate new concepts
- To provide extension and enrichment opportunities
- To promote physical, mental, emotional and spiritual development
- To promote the sharing of new experiences
- To encourage children to experience a breadth and diversity of healthy, active and constructive activities promoting the development of positive life skills

- Self Discipline
- Self – Worth
- Self – Development
- Learning
- Family Life
- Creativity
- Responsibility
- Enjoyment
The homework guidelines are to include information about:

- Homework expectations – Compulsory and non-compulsory components
- Communication of homework expectations to students, staff and parents/guardians
- Years 1/2: 15 minutes per day
- Years 3/4/5: 20 to 25 minutes per day
- Years 6/7: 30 – 40 minutes per day

- Completing unfinished school work
- Research Work (Online/IT) – questioning, interviewing, investigating, creating, problem solving, surveying.
- Physical activities – organized sport, art, drama, cultural activities, music lessons, dance, play, learning through family activities.
- Practical living skills – shopping, housework, cooking, caring for pets, time management planning, planning the next family holiday, doing something thoughtful for someone else.
- Relationship skills – spending time with family, meditation/spiritual/relaxation, visiting family/friends, community involvement.

Punishment at school for non-completion of homework is generally seen to be ineffective and inefficient. Punishing students who may already be disadvantaged has serious implications for self-esteem, social interactions and love of learning. When homework is not being completed, teachers are to conference with students and (where necessary with parents) in joint problem solving. Teachers are to encourage the completion of homework, establish a common understanding of what is expected and what is happening, and offer any support that may be required. Children and parents are to be encouraged to recognize that they are accountable for the completion of homework. If children are experiencing difficulty in completing tasks in a reasonable time or if particular family circumstances impede the completion of homework then parents should communicate this to the teacher.