

Our Lady Help of Christians
Catholic Primary School
Epping



Homework Policy

Celebrating our faith

Challenging students to achieve

Educating students to be life-long learners

Reaching out to others in justice and love

INTRODUCTION

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Primary School, Epping is a one streamed K-6 co-educational school located in the North Shore cluster of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay, Sydney. The school is a mixed community with approximately 33% of students from Language Backgrounds other than English. (LBOTE)

The purpose of this policy is to provide an understanding of the framework for homework from Kindergarten to Year 6.

PURPOSE / RATIONALE

Homework is to

- provide an opportunity for students to practise skills and reinforce classroom learning
- assist in the student's development of good study patterns for later years
- provide a means of communication with parents, providing information about their child's learning
- assist in the student's development of time management skills

AIM

This policy aims to:

- provide a framework for guidelines surrounding homework at OLHC

OUTCOMES

Students will be able to revise work introduced in class, become more independent and responsible for their learning and organise their time effectively.

Through homework, parents will become more informed and more involved in the education of their children.

BELIEFS ABOUT TEACHING AND LEARNING

At Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Primary School, we believe that children learn...

- at different rates according to different learning styles
- when they are engaged in meaningful, sequential activities that are stimulating, motivating and related to life experiences
- when they feel accepted and free to take risks with their learning
- when they are provided with meaningful feedback and have opportunities to reflect on their learning
- when parents and teachers are supportive and involved in the children's learning

Therefore, at OLHC ...

- class teachers:-
 - set homework tasks linked to class learning
 - check completion of tasks and provide feedback to students
 - facilitate nightly home reading
- students:-
 - read each night as a part of their homework routine
 - K-2 Home Readers are to be read out loud to parent / guardian
 - 3-6 Independent reading plus twice a week (10-15 min) reading out loud to parents
 - complete homework tasks as set by class teacher
 - use students diaries (Yrs 3- 6) to record homework
 - use reading diaries (K-2) to record nightly reading
- parents:-
 - view and sign student diaries (Yrs 3-6)
 - view and sign reading diaries (K-2) for nightly reading
 - inform class teacher if homework is not completed

CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE / RELIGIOUS DIMENSION

At OLHC we celebrate and share our Catholic faith and life experience. Following our school's Mission of *educating students to be life-long learners* and *challenging students to achieve*, we endeavour to help them become members of society who can use their skills for the betterment of themselves and others.

Homework is set according to the needs of the students

Why do we set homework?

- consolidation of learning
- to develop good study skills
- allow parents to see what's being taught

What outcomes do we want the children to achieve?

- enjoy homework and see it as worthwhile and an extension of the learning
- realise that it's their work
- establish good work habits and consolidate learning
- enjoy sharing their learning with their parents

What are our requirements around homework for children?

- must be valued – homework that is set must be completed, marked and feedback given
- must be consistency across K -6
- homework must be done by the children themselves
- homework needs to be completed in set time frame

Homework is to be completed Monday – Thursday with MAXIMUM times per night as outlined below:

Early Stage One	15 minutes	(10 minutes reading, 5 minutes other)
Stage One	20 minutes	(15 minutes reading, 5 minutes other)
Stage Two	40 minutes	(20 minutes reading, 20 minutes other)
Stage Three	60 minutes	(30 minutes reading, 30 minutes other)

What are our expectations?

- set work should be completed
- parents to sign diaries – K, 1, 2 Reading Diaries 3 – 6 Student Diaries
- Children notify teachers if they are having difficulty with work

At OLHC, we believe homework *should* be:

Consistent
Connected to learning
Purposeful
Interesting

At OLHC we believe homework *shouldn't* be:

Onerous
Stressful
Upsetting
Too difficult
Punishment
Too time consuming

EVALUATION

This policy is to be evaluated by staff annually at the beginning of each school year.