

St Joseph's School, Boulder

Homework Guidelines

Updated 2024

PRINCIPLES

Homework for primary school children should be minimal, in order that a balance of play, rest and exercise can be achieved. The prime purpose of homework at St Joseph's School is to reinforce and practise learning achieved in class. Homework should always be seen as a vehicle to enhance student learning outcomes and foster positive school/home partnerships.

At St Joseph's School, homework is set by class teachers and its completion is highly encouraged. However, it is up to parents whether their child completes homework, or not, as they are the ones best placed to understand their child in the home environment. Teachers will monitor homework completion, as this is reported on in the end of semester reports.

ASSIGNED HOMEWORK

The following are outlines of the type of homework teachers will set, as well as the general time allocation per night (Monday to Thursday).

Pre-Primary

- Suggested time allocation: 10-15 minutes
- Practice of letter names and sounds
- Practice of sight words and decodable reading books (from Term 2)
- Practice of number recognition
- Parents reading to students
- Voluntary searches for information and artefacts to support classroom themes and/or activities, as requested by the teacher

Years 1 – 2

- Suggested time allocation: 15-20 minutes
- Home reading – either to parents, or parents to students
- Sight word practice
- Practice of basic addition and subtraction facts
- Homework grid containing activities to be done over a 1-2 week period (as specified by the teacher)
- Voluntary searches for information and artefacts to support classroom themes and/or activities, as requested by the teacher

Years 3 – 4

- Suggested time allocation: 25-30 minutes
- Home reading – either to parents, or independently
- Practice of basic number facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division).
- Homework contract containing activities to be done over a 1-2 week period (as specified by the teacher)
- Voluntary searches for information and artefacts to support classroom themes and/or activities, as requested by the teacher

Years 5 – 6

- Suggested time allocation: 30-40 minutes
- Independent home reading of books that interest them
- Practice of basic number facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division).

- Homework contract containing activities to be done over a 1-2 week period (as specified by the teacher)
- Voluntary searches for information and artefacts to support classroom themes and/or activities, as requested by the teacher

STUDENTS NEEDING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Some students have particular learning needs due to a learning difficulty or developmental delay. On occasions it can be useful to support such students with targeted specific activities designed to reinforce or develop a concept. Teachers & parents can work together to negotiate such activities, always based on the premise of encouraging and supporting the child – not pushing them beyond their limits.

OTHER HOME ACTIVITIES PARENTS CAN USE TO SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING

(some ideas – not an exhaustive list)

- playing board games, card games, dice games
- reading stories at bedtime
- cooking healthy snacks or dinner
- engaging in outdoor games and activities
- playing charades and other drama type activities
- watching TV together and talk about the issues
- doing crosswords, puzzles and jigsaws
- using a computer or tablet to search for interesting educational internet sites
- building a cubby house with sheets or boxes
- writing letters or emails to loved ones
- creating a video to share with family and friends
- going bug hunting
- doing science experiments
- creating arts and crafts
- choreographing a dance