Learning - Thinking - Choosing - Relating - Being

1.0 Rationale

Our Lady of the Way Homework Policy takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits. The responsibility for overseeing homework lies essentially with the parents. Homework need not be a cause of stress or upset for children or parents. The emphasis should always be placed on the learning value.

2.0 Aims

Our Lady of the Way places a great focus and energy on literacy, numeracy and inquiry learning skills. We desire that our students:

- cultivate a passion for reading, becoming highly effective readers and seeing reading as a foundational skill to powerful learning;
- acquire a love of Mathematics and becoming numerate learners by developing the knowledge and skills to use mathematics confidently across all areas of their lives;
- develop the skills of curiosity, creativity and innovation by extending and consolidating their learning beyond the classroom;
- become self-motivate learners that encourages life-long learning;
- involve all family members in their learning;
- develop learning based on personal interests and enjoyment;
- acquire independence in their study habits.

Through the home and school partnership, students have the opportunity to:

- improve comprehension; (students who read extensively learn reading strategies and increase their reading rates)
- make gains in overall language proficiency;
- increase vocabulary knowledge;
- improve writing and spelling skills;
- improve understanding of mathematical concepts and problem-solving;
- build fluency through the recall of factual knowledge and concepts;
- develop research and critical thinking skills.
3.0 Implementation

**EARLY STAGE 1 & STAGE 1**
In Kindergarten, Year 1 & Year 2, homework involves reading a variety of home readers and quality literature as well as the quick identification of sight words. In these foundational years children become better readers by practising reading.

Parents are encouraged to provide opportunities for their children to build fluency through counting games and using Mathematics in real-life situations around the home for 5–10 minutes each day. Children may also pursue other learning activities that spark their curiosity with their families.

The time suggested for homework for Kindergarten, Year 1 & Year 2 students, is approximately 15-30 minutes daily.

**STAGE 2**
In Year 3 and Year 4, homework involves reading a variety of texts including chapter books, magazines, as well as visual information, maps, tables, charts, diagrams, animations, images that embrace media and digital texts, covering all areas of the curriculum. Teachers will provide guidance and assistance to students in choosing suitable reading material.

Parents are encouraged to provide opportunities for their children to build fluency through the quick recall of number and table facts as well as the spelling of familiar words for 5-10 minutes each day.

Teachers will prescribe other English, Mathematics and research activities during the course of the year.

Children may also choose to pursue other learning activities that spark their curiosity with their families as well as continue with their learning topics from school.

The time suggested for homework for Year 3 & Year 4 students, is approximately 30–45 minutes daily.

**STAGE 3**
In Year 5 and Year 6, homework involves reading a variety of texts including visual information, maps, tables, charts, diagrams, animations, images that embrace media and digital texts, covering all areas of the curriculum.

Parents are encouraged to provide regular opportunities for their children to build fluency through the quick recall of number and table facts as well as the spelling of familiar and unfamiliar words for 5-10 minutes each day.

Teachers will prescribe other English, Mathematics and research activities during the course of the year.

Children should also choose to pursue other learning activities that spark their curiosity, imagination and creativity with their families as well as continue with their learning topics from school.

The time suggested for homework for Year 5 & Year 6 students, is approximately 45-60 minutes daily.
4.0 **Budget**
No budget is required for this policy at this time.

5.0 **Evaluation**
The Principal, with delegated responsibility to the Leadership Team is responsible for the planning, implementation and review of this policy.

**WHAT CAN PARENTS/CARERS DO TO ASSIST?**

- Take into account the need for your child to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.
- Take an active interest in your child's reading.
- Be a good role model and read with and to your child.
- Support your child in setting aside time each day for homework.
- Provide a dedicated place and routine for homework if possible.
- Practice the quick recall of number facts and tables with your child daily.
- Use Mathematics in your every day activities with your child. Follow a recipe together, play games associated with time, weight, height, distance etc.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about your child's approach and motivation to homework.

All children should be doing activities each afternoon when they get home. It is a time for them to connect their learning with life experiences. We know from research that when children make these connections, then true and long lasting learning takes place.

If parents require assistance in identifying suitable resources to help their child with home activities, teachers can help source resources and tasks.

During the course of the year, teachers may send home activities that need to be completed to complement a unit of work being studied, or work that was not completed in class time. Teachers will notify parents when this is necessary, when the task is due back to school and what is expected.