



# St Joseph's School

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## School Vision

In the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, St Joseph's School Wyndham is a welcoming and supportive Catholic Community. We challenge our community members to discover God in themselves and in others, and to live by Gospel values. We are committed to enabling personal growth and academic excellence. We respect cultural diversity and acknowledge and share our differences.

## School Mission

Recognition of the cultural diversity of St Joseph's School in Wyndham permeates all teaching and learning through mutual sharing of the development of meaningful relationships.

We develop relationships by:

- Bearing witness to Jesus' message by the way we live, the way we relate to each other, and participation in parish/school life.
- Providing a challenging and comprehensive curriculum that through best practise, promotes a respect of learning and a positive view of self as a lifelong learner for every individual.
- Ensuring that the needs of the whole person are met - spiritually, socially, emotionally, academically and physically.
- Demonstrating our support through open communication, pastoral care and service.
- Committing to continuously building partnerships with the community to encourage regular attendance and engaged learners.

## Values and Beliefs

We believe that the parents are the first educators of their children.

We will always personally do our best to meet the needs of our students.

We will support all staff and students to be their best.

## RATIONALE

Homework is an aspect of school that encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning, to make decisions and accept consequences. Homework provides students with opportunities to become more independent, successful students, and to include parents and care givers in the students learning. Homework should, therefore, be treated by the student, parent and teachers as a valued and integral part of the learning process.

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## GUIDELINES

- Homework assignments need to be clear, relevant and purposeful. Concepts and tasks should be treated and developed in the classroom before being assigned as homework. This allows the student to undertake and complete the homework confidently and independently.
- Homework activities may include some reading, revision of previous work, practice in a particular process, advance preparation for new topics, completion of unfinished class work or research based activities.
- Students must receive feedback from teachers as soon as possible after completing the homework.
- The amount of time set for homework should not be too long. Relaxation and activities outside of school are important aspects of the student's total development and their value should not be underestimated.
- Suggested times for homework for Monday – Thursday
  - ◆ Years 1 & 2                      5 – 15 minutes
  - ◆ Years 3,4 & 5                    15 – 30 minutes
  - ◆ Years 6 & 7                      30 – 45 minutes

## **PARENTAL GUIDELINES**

- The parents' role in their children's homework should be one of support. Maintaining a positive attitude and encouraging the child to work independently are important aspects of that support.
- Initially parents may need to help with general organization and keeping to a schedule.
- Parents are expected to listen to their child read and encourage good reading practices.
- Parents also need to see that the child has a comfortable, well-lit and quiet place to work.
- Parents are not expected to correct their child's work as the information gained from the child's efforts is important for re-teaching or future planning by the teacher. This does not preclude a parent from advising or instructing their child at their own discretion. They must be careful, however, not to mask any serious conceptual difficulties the child may be experiencing.
- The school recognizes the increasing pressures of family life and the demands on parents' time. For this reason, homework schedules are to be closely observed and the homework policy reviewed in relation to rapidly changing lifestyles.

Parents are asked to inform teachers of reasons for homework not being completed. If a reasonable attempt has been made but the work is not finished, parents are asked to inform teachers that genuine commitment has been shown to the completion the task.