Rationale
St. Joseph’s Primary School Merriwa honours its commitment to quality Catholic education through its provision of high quality educational programs by which each child is enabled to reach their full potential.

(adapted from the school vision statement)
The teachers at St. Joseph’s acknowledge the importance of homework, as it provides an opportunity for students to consolidate learning that has begun at school. It enables parents to be involved in the learning process with their child, providing them with relevant learning experiences that will impact the students’ depth of learning.

Aims
To develop positive attitudes and skills of independent study
- To develop a habit of regular study at home
- To enable the student to practice the skills taught at school
- To encourage the development of Literacy and Numeracy skills
- To enable parents to take an active role in the partnership between parents and the school in their child’s education.

Implementation
Homework Plan
A summary of a term’s homework will be sent home at the commencement of each term. Homework will focus on Literacy and/or Numeracy skills. Homework will be differentiated to cater for the needs of each individual student.
Teachers may provide student directed activities such as research projects, art, maths puzzles so that homework can be shared with the whole family. These activities aim to develop specific skills and a love of learning which is lifelong.

Special Needs:
Children who participate in special reading programs at school will be set homework that reinforces that learning at home.

Homework Schedule:
Homework will be given on Thursday and must be returned the following Wednesday. Homework returned late will be acknowledged but may not be corrected.
The teachers understand that family life can be very busy at times and therefore completion of homework is sometimes difficult. Homework not completed due to family celebrations and happenings is to be communicated to the teacher via the School Diaries.

We also ask for parent understanding, at times, where teacher’s circumstances prevent them from marking and providing feedback immediately.

Time allocation:
Suggested guidelines for maximum time spent each night doing homework:
- Kindergarten 10 mins
- Year 1 15 mins
- Year 2 20 mins
- Year 3 25 mins
- Year 4 30 mins
- Year 5 35 mins
- Year 6 45 mins

We continue to encourage all parents to engage in reading activities with their children every day.

Evaluation
- Evaluation of this policy will take place
  - annually or when changes in government and/or diocesan policy occur