



**St John the Apostle  
Catholic School**

*Strength & Gentleness*

## How to Support your Child's Learning

“Positive **parental engagement** in learning improves academic achievement, wellbeing and productivity”. (Emerson et al 2012). Family practices, behaviours and attitudes to school and learning significantly impact on a child's educational success. So how do you know if you are doing the right thing to support your child through school? Here is a checklist to give you some guidance:

### **You are 'engaged' in your child's education when you:**

- Develop a good working relationship with your child's teacher/s and the school:
  - Attend parent information sessions and parent/teacher interviews.
  - Read Compass messages and newsletters,
  - Complete forms and permission slips on time
  - Keep an open line of communication about things that matter to your child's learning and wellbeing
  - Resolve grievances appropriately;
  - Participate in the life of their school community in whatever way best reflects your interest, skill and capacity;
- Talk positively about education in general, St John's school in particular and the benefits of doing your best at school;
- Encourage your child by acknowledging their successes. But also praise qualities such as persistence, having a go and developing a “Growth mindset” particularly when the task is challenging for your child;
- Have high expectations - expect your child to do their best, apply themselves to their learning and complete set work when its due;
- Support your child's consistent and punctual attendance at school;
- Ensure they have a healthy diet and enough rest;
- Support your child with their homework and ensure that they have the time, space and resources to do it and of course to relax too;
- Talk with your child about school, what they are learning, their friendships, what homework they have and how they feel they are doing;
- Taking their age into account, talk with your child about current affairs, things going on in the world, TV shows you watch together. Ask their opinion on issues and respect their point of view;
- Provide opportunities to experience a range of cultural and social experiences;
- Read aloud with your child and/or encourage them to read often;
- Be a positive advocate for your child's learning, social and emotional needs;
- Believe that all students can learn and regardless of their ability

