

HOMEWORK

POLICY

Rationale:

- Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Aims:

- To support and extend classroom learning.
- To develop positive study habits.
- To develop a responsibility for self-learning.

Implementation:

- The College's homework policy will be distributed to parents via the newsletter and website at the commencement of each school year.
- All students from Year 5 onwards will be allocated homework diaries.
- Classroom teachers will set homework appropriate to each child's skill level and age.
- Homework activities should not be seen as a chore but be interesting, challenging and where appropriate, open-ended.
- Each set task must be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum. Drill and practice activities are to be avoided.
- All homework activities must be assessed with feedback and support provided by teachers.

Early Years (Prep – Year 4)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- reading activities to, with and by parents.
- simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities.
- gathering of additional information or materials

Homework will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day and will generally not be set on weekends or during vacation periods.

Middle Years (Years 5 – 8)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- independent reading on a daily basis
- tasks such as continuation of classroom work, projects and assignments, essays and research
- practising skills learned in various classes
- revising in preparation for assessments in class

Homework will generally be between 45 and 90 minutes per day, will be coordinated between teachers to avoid excessive workload, and may be set during weekends and school vacations.

Later Years (Year 9 – Year 12)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- reading, research, assignments, assessments tasks and independent projects.

Homework schedules will be discussed with students in each year level by the sub-school leader, with opportunities being made for parents to discuss homework issues with the school.

Teachers of each subject will provide students with formal opportunities to build organisational and planning skills.

Homework will generally increase from 90 minutes to 3 hours per weeknight with up to 6 hours on weekends during peak VCE periods.

- It is commonplace for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.

Suggested Time Guidelines for Students, Parents and Teachers

It is important that a Student Study Plan is realistic and includes the many and varied commitments in their week (sport, part time employment, home responsibilities etc.)

Year Level	Study per Night	Per Week
P-2	10 - 15 minutes	1 hour
Yr 3 & 4	20 minutes	1 1/2 hours
Yr 5 & 6	30 minutes	2 1/2 hours
Yr 7 & 8	45 min - 1 hr	4-5 hours
Yr 9 & 10	1 – 1.5 hours	6 - 7 hours
Yr 11 & 12	3 hrs x 5 per week Plus Weekend study	15 hours plus

Parents and carers can help students with their homework by:

- encouraging a regular daily session to examine and complete homework
- discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with homework
- set up a family schedule to include homework, chores, work and recreational activities
- asking how homework and class work is progressing, and acknowledging success
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- talking to teachers about any homework problems
- checking if homework has been set
- signing the homework diary on a weekly basis
- reading texts set by teachers
- discussing their child's responses to set texts and asking to see their completed work
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language.

Teachers will help students with their homework by:

- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- helping students establish a home study routine
- giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- making effective use of homework diaries for students in Year 5 upwards
- co-ordinating the allocation of homework by different teachers at each year level
- helping students develop organisational, research and time-management skills
- ensuring parents and carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- making contact through diary, email or phone to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

September 2014