



HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale:

Homework provides opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, and to encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively.

It enables students in junior levels to develop the skills needed for success in their senior secondary levels, and at the senior levels to develop the skills necessary for success in VCE subjects and beyond.

Homework is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education by taking an active interest in the work their child is completing and assisting them to develop good work habits.

Aims:

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

Implementation:

- The school's homework policy will be distributed to parents at the commencement of each school year.
- Set homework will be appropriate to the student's skill level and age.
- Each set task must be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum.
- Homework activities should be interesting, challenging and when appropriate open-ended. Homework tasks should enable motivated students to demonstrate their skills.
- All homework activities must be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided in a timely manner.
- Clear instructions will be provided when necessary.
- It is vital that homework commitments are balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.
- Homework expectations will be determined according to the stages of schooling model under which the college operates, i.e. Early Years (Prep -Year4), Middle Years (Years 5/6/7), Upper Middle Years (Years 8/9) and Senior Years (Years 10-12).
- Work will be set so that students are able to complete it unaided, however parental support is encouraged.
- The school would expect parents to support their child's home study by providing encouragement, sufficient quiet time and a suitable space to work.

Early Years (Prep-Year 4)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Reading activities, to, with and by parents. (10 – 15 minutes)
- Simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities.
- Gathering of additional information or materials.
- Practice activities to consolidate new learning.

Each student will use a Reading Folder to carry books to and from school. Parents will be expected to record the reading completed and sign on a daily basis.

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

Extra tasks will be set for students who take holidays within school term times. These children will be encouraged through an Absence Learning Plan to keep a diary of their travels and write to their class.

Middle Years (Years 5-7)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Independent reading on a daily basis. (20 minutes)
- Tasks such as completion of classroom work, projects and assignments, essays and research.
- Practice activities to consolidate new learning.

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

All students will be expected to purchase and use the College diary to record homework tasks and due dates.

Homework will generally not exceed 45 minutes per day, will be coordinated between teachers to avoid excessive workload, and may be set during weekends and school vacations.

Extra tasks will be set for students who take holidays within school term times. These children will be supported through an Absence Learning Plan.

Upper Middle (Years 8 and 9)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Independent reading or set literacy tasks on a daily basis. (30 minutes)
- Tasks such as completion of classroom work, projects and assignments, essays and research.
- Practice activities to consolidate new learning.
- At times, students will be expected to study with the purpose of learning content and extending understanding of vocabulary, concepts and rules.

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

Students will be provided with formal opportunities to build organisation and planning skills.

All students will be expected to purchase and use the College diary to record homework tasks and due dates.

Homework will generally not exceed 60 minutes per day, will be coordinated between teachers to avoid excessive workload, and may be set during weekends and school vacations.

Extra tasks will be set for students who take holidays within school term times. These children will be supported through an Absence Learning Plan.

Later Years VCE Pathway (Years 10-12)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Reading, research, assignments, assessment tasks and independent projects.

Homework schedules will be discussed with each student individually, with opportunities being made for parents to discuss homework issues with the school.

Students will be provided with formal opportunities to build organisation and planning skills.

Homework and study will generally increase from 90 minutes to 3 hours per subject per week, with additional hours on weekends, plus scheduled holiday classes during peak VCE periods.

- Homework tasks will be balanced with expectations for study and learning of course-specific formulae, vocabulary and content.

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

***The College has an attendance requirement of 90% for students in the VCE pathway.

Later Years VCAL Pathway (Years 10 – 12)

Independent learning tasks out of school hours will consist mainly of:

- Reading, research, assignments, assessment tasks and independent projects relevant to the students own career path
- Organisational tasks
- Consolidation and practice of Literacy and Numeracy skills
- Completion of class work
- Resume development
- Investigation and organisation of Work Placement and/or Work Experience

Students will be provided with formal opportunities to build organisational and planning skills. Homework will generally not exceed 90 minutes per day.

***The College has an attendance requirement of 90% for students in the VCAL pathway.

Guidelines for Students

1. Homework may involve reading, research, set tasks, revision of class work, completion of course notes, organisation of folders, completing study notes, collection of materials and resources.

2. The college diary is vital for adhering to homework deadlines. (Years 5-12)
3. Home study is the consolidation and revision of what students have learned. All Upper Middle and Later Years students should make up a home-study timetable. Identifiable problems can then be resolved quickly.
4. Students should be aware of the world around them, so they should read widely, including the daily newspapers as often as possible.

Guidelines for Teachers

1. Teachers should set realistic tasks. Be sure that students know what is expected of them. Get the students into the habit of entering the task into their diary when it is set. Ensure clear guidelines are provided for parents.
2. Know how long the tasks should take and space the work accordingly. Take note of the feedback from students and parents about the amount of home-tasks/home-study set at a particular time.
3. Try to be aware of work other teachers have set at that level. This should be discussed at level meetings.
4. Keep to deadlines except for compassionate reasons.
5. Provide feedback on all homework tasks promptly.

Guidelines for Parents

1. Provide suitable conditions for study. Students need a quiet place, with adequate equipment (chair, table) and lighting.
2. Take an active interest in the work set. Check the diary and help your child to use it effectively. Use the diary as a means of communication between home and school.
3. Take note of due dates and see that the work is actually done.
4. Get to know your child's work habits. Pace of work varies from person to person. Some students work better in the morning, others at night. Make allowances for these individual preferences.
5. Help your child to find a suitable balance between the time spent on school work, sport, entertainment, part-time job, household chores and family time.
6. Encourage your household to work co-operatively. Parents and students need to realise each other's needs and to work together to achieve family ambitions and goals.