

HOMEWORK POLICY – Yr. 7 & 8

Homework at Years 7 & 8 is seen as an essential part of learning. Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning; fosters good, lifelong learning and study habits; and develops in students the responsibility for organising and managing their own learning. It is expected that all students in Year 7 & 8 complete set homework tasks.

Homework is an opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents, in partnership with teachers, should encourage and support their children to establish good study habits when completing set homework tasks. When homework has not been completed a written explanation, signed by a parent/guardian is required.

Teachers in Year 7 & 8 value the importance of homework. For their part, teachers are available to offer support for students who may require extra assistance with homework through discussions, provision of materials and resources and teacher guidance.

PRINCIPLES

- Parents will be advised of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and a homework contract between the student, teacher and parent/guardian will be sent home and returned signed.
- Homework helps students to develop organisational and time management skills, self-discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and personal responsibility for learning.
- Homework diaries will be used by some students as a means of regular communication between parents and teachers.
- Parents will be informed when students do not complete their homework.
- Teachers will set regular homework tasks that are applicable to students' developmental stages of learning.

TYPES of HOMEWORK

Homework should:

- Be appropriate to the student's developmental stage of learning
- Be interesting, challenging, engaging, and where appropriate, open-ended
- Be purposeful and relevant to the curriculum
- Be acknowledged by teachers with feedback and support provided, if required

Types of homework that may meet these requirements include:

- *PRACTICE EXERCISES* – providing students with opportunities to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- *PREPARATORY HOMEWORK* – providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons
- *EXTENSION ASSIGNMENTS* – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively

EXPECTATIONS

Parents can assist their children by:

- Encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning, preparation and organisation, based on the child's developmental stage of learning
- Observing and acknowledging their success and talking with them about how their home and class work is progressing
- Set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework
- Setting an example by reading and writing
- Contacting the teacher to discuss any problems their children are experiencing with homework
- Helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to possible resources – *it is usually better to encourage children to complete homework themselves*
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and/or engaging in other leisure and recreational activities
- Checking whether homework has been set and ensuring that the child keep a homework diary, if required
- Reading texts set by teachers and discussing their child's response to the texts
- Discussing homework in the 'first language,' where English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to their previous experiences
- Where possible provide access to internet. *Local library, extended family etc*

TEACHERS CAN ASSIST THEIR STUDENTS BY:

- Providing homework club with teacher support.
- Setting regular homework to help students establish a home study routine
- Setting varied, challenging, engaging and meaningful tasks based on skills that have been covered in class that are appropriate to the students' learning needs and learning styles
- Assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- Encouraging students to make effective use of homework diaries
- Helping students develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning
- Ensuring that parents are aware of homework expectations
- Developing strategies to support and inform parents so that they can become active partners in homework

SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

In the Middle Years (**Year 7&8**) homework:

- Will reinforce skills, processes and concepts introduced and learnt in class
- Will enable the review and possible extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials
- Should include daily independent reading
- May include extension of class work, projects, assignments and /or research
- Will generally not exceed 5-8 hours a week
- Will be set and the due date for completion will be clearly made known to all students

EVALUATION

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the college's two year review cycle, individually, in teams and with the community in 2014.