



Holy Spirit College

A Catholic Coeducational Secondary College

HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale

We believe that homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process and contributes to sound study habits, self-discipline and responsibility. Homework serves to reinforce knowledge, assists in developing research, organisational and problem-solving skills, and encourages an attitude of responsibility. Homework, well done, also allows students to gain satisfaction from their efforts, thus raising self-esteem.

Homework is considered to be an extension of the core learning of students with the aim of developing autonomous study skills and assisting students in developing effective research, time management and organisational skills. Students are expected to develop a regular pattern of study, particularly in Senior School. The type of homework and study will differ from subject to subject and year group to year group.

Responsibility of Teachers:

- In Years 7-12 homework may be set on a regular basis in subjects. This will be dependent on the class level, topic being taught and the practicality of the subject area;
- It may include practical exercises, preparatory work or extension assignments at the discretion of the teacher considering the class level, ability and the subject;
- It will be related to the topic being done in class;
- Sufficient time to complete the task will be given;
- Students are aware of what is expected of them and when it is due;
- That communication is provided to parents when areas of concern are identified in relation to homework;
- Ensure that all set homework is recorded in student diaries at time homework is set.
- Check homework promptly and maintain student homework records in order to develop study habits and self-discipline.

Failure to complete homework may result in the following:

- Note in student diary - for first 3 offences
- Letter of concern for repeat offenders (after 3 offences)
- Record keeping to assist in reporting (Sentral must be used) and parent teacher interviews

As a rule students will not be given homework one week leading up to an assessment task for that subject, unless they have not completed set class work. The students, within this week are expected to study, make summary notes and complete revision work in preparation for the upcoming assessment.

In the event that students have no teacher directed homework, revision and unit summaries should be prepared and/or a student should also be reading. Furthermore, Years 10 to 12 students should complete practice examination style questions for their subject areas, such as past exams and Higher School Certificate examination papers. Students should work on homework without extensive parental assistance.

Homework should:

- Be appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- Be interesting, challenging and differentiated where necessary
- Be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- Provide an opportunity for teachers to determine student understanding
- Provide an opportunity for teachers to provide relevant, meaningful and directive feedback to activate student understanding
- Be able to be completed within a reasonable timeframe

Responsibility of Students:

When homework is set:

- Complete homework in the given time;
- Take responsibility for their homework planning by using a diary.
- As students move into the senior school the homework and study demands will increase. Students will be expected to spend additional time to homework reviewing their classwork. However, students will be able to, at times, negotiate the amount, type and time frame of their homework through the use of a study timetable.

What can parents/caregivers do to help?

- Take an active interest in their child's homework.
- Support their child in setting aside time each day for homework.
- Provide a dedicated place for homework and study if possible.
- Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested, and be aware of the amount of homework set.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or your child's approach to homework through the school diary.
- Develop a partnership with the teacher by alerting the teacher to any domestic circumstances or extra curricular activities which may have affected homework completion, via email or phone call.

Suggested times for homework are (this is separate to study):

- Years 7 & 8: 1 - 2 hours per weeknight (15 minutes per period)
- Years 9 & 10: 2 hours per weeknight (20 minutes per period)
- Years 11 & 12: 3 hours per weeknight (30 minutes per period)

During more demanding times, when there are assessment tasks due these time limits will increase.

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