

MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

HOMEWORK POLICY

YEAR DRAFTED: 2014

Reviewed: 2016

Review: 2018

RATIONALE

Homework is an integral part of children's education. It helps maintain communication between the school and home on the child's academic growth and it reinforces basic skills and concepts taught in class.

Homework should be regular, relaxed and non-threatening. Children should be given homework which involves familiar concepts or skills. Parents should not be required to "teach" anything to their child as part of homework set. Homework which creates stress in the child and/or parent should be discontinued and a note of explanation sent to the teacher the next day. Homework should provide a time for parents to positively reinforce and encourage their children's efforts.

ORGANISATION

Homework will be set for Monday to Thursday evenings only, leaving weekends free.

POLICY STATEMENT

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standard (spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic), we recognise that a positive educational partnership between home and school is important. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. At Mother Teresa we believe;

<i>Homework is:</i>	<i>Homework is not</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A chance to engage parents in their child's learning journey• A chance to provide feedback to students and parents• An avenue for students and parents to communicate their learning• An opportunity to consolidate and reinforce known skills• Reading each night	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meaningless worksheets• Unfinished class work• Work that will be graded as a stand alone task• Completing untaught and concepts tasks• Whole projects completed at home

TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF HOMEWORK:

PP – 2 (Learning to read)

Homework in PP-2 **may** include and should not exceed 10 minutes a night:

- Reading each night
- Word Work
- Maths games
- Occasional tasks for school eg: interview grandparents, gather materials for Science experiments

Year 3 – 6 (Reading to learn)

Homework tasks in Years 3 to 6 **may** include and should not exceed 20 minutes a night:

- Reading each night
- Word Work
- Maths games
- Previewing upcoming class material eg: iTuneU teacher developed, Google Classroom
- Gathering of materials for ERPs
- Occasional tasks for school eg: interview grandparents, gather materials for Science experiments

Homework / Revision / Preparation / Study in the Secondary School

At Mother Teresa Catholic College we believe homework, revision, preparation and study are important for secondary students. Completion of regular homework/revision and study provides opportunities for students to consolidate and extend their learning. Homework/Revision may consist of set exercises, reviewing and editing written work, reading and/or viewing texts. Homework/Revision allows students to:

- practise new skills
- increase retention of knowledge
- extend and improve class work
- explore new ideas
- complete missed or incomplete class-work
- develop time management skills

Study is any reviewing of course work other than homework/ revision or specific teacher directed activity. This may include writing study notes and summaries, mind maps, research, flowcharts, diagrams and other revision strategies.

Students are responsible for:

- making sure they understand clearly what has to be done, when it is due in, and any other details – if in doubt, ask the teacher
- recording all homework accurately in their Homework Diary
- finding out what was missed during any absence and catching up with that work
- organising their time so that each subject receives a fair share of the time available
- contacting their teacher or Year Coordinator if they experience difficulty managing their homework requirements.

Parents can support students by:

- providing a suitable environment (a desk, adequate lighting and ventilation and if at all possible, a private area that is free from interruptions)
- discouraging homework and study in the vicinity of the television
- regularly checking the child's homework diary
- taking an interest in assignments, checking results and noting teacher comments
- contacting the class teacher with any specific queries about homework
- encouraging a homework and study routine and providing rewards such as verbal praise or television time, for the completion of study even when there is no set homework, since there is always extra reading or learning which can be done.

How much homework and study should a student do?

The amount and complexity of homework, revision, preparation and study vary according to the stage of study. Students need to be able to balance homework and study with after-school and weekend leisure activities.

Generally the following is recommended from Monday to Friday:

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| • Year 7 | Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ hour per night | 3.75 hours per week |
| • Year 8 | Approximately 1 hour per night | 5 hours per week |
| • Year 9 | Approximately 1.5 hours per night | 7.5 hours per week |
| • Year 10 | Approximately 2 hours per night | 10 hours per week |
| • Year 11 | Approximately 2.5 hours per night | 12.5 hours per week |
| • Year 12 | Approximately 3 hours per night | 15 hours per week |

The exact amount of time will depend on the individual ability of the student, the student's subject combination, how the student is progressing and the difficulty level of the course.