



# McAuley Catholic Central School

## **Homework and Study Policy 2015**

# **HOMEWORK AND STUDY POLICY**

## **RATIONALE**

*“the time students spend outside the classroom in assigned activities to practice, reinforce or apply newly-acquired skills and knowledge and to learn necessary skills of independent study” [Butler, 1987].*

Studies have found Homework to be most helpful if they are carefully planned by teachers and have direct meaning to school work. It fosters study and work habits and encourages a sense of responsibility. Homework is linked to the curriculum taught in classrooms, providing practice and revision of work and skills.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Homework** is educational tasks done outside the timetabled curriculum. (Non-class hours) It contains an element of study that is not directly supervised by the teacher. It is important in raising student standards which is a vital part of successful education. It provides the opportunity for consolidation of work in the classroom.

**Study** is not completing assignments or homework. It involves consolidating concepts and information.

## **TYPES OF HOMEWORK**

- **Practice**

Is used to reinforce skills and concepts already learned in class for example: Food preparation, physical exercises. Work given to reinforce skills in class such as spelling, maths or and independent reading

- **Preparation**

This type provides students the opportunity to gain background information in order to increase learning potential for an upcoming topic or lesson.

- **Creative**

Creative homework offers students the opportunity to think critically and engage in problem solving activities. It encourages students to integrate a variety of skills and concepts presented in class.

- **Spiritual**

Is used to promote faith, outside the school environment. It may consist of saying a special prayer at night, projects on the needy, writing letters (Amnesty In.) among other stewardship projects.

- **Application**

Applying knowledge to various cross curricula learning areas, putting theory into practice (Maths projects, essay writing etc)

- **Research**

Thinking through a problem and looking at as many aspects or views to the topic. Project work and Extension work in the curriculum are appropriate areas for the major part to be completed at home. e.g Mathematics.

## **HOMEWORK OR STUDY**

Study is not completing assignments or homework. Study involves consolidating concepts and information. It involves committing your work to memory, making sure work is understood. This means regular revision of work. Constant revision will help to obtain the maximum retention of information and concepts for the greatest possible time.

Spending 10 minutes reviewing what is learnt will mean retention of the majority of concepts.

A week later spending 5 minutes to reactivate the same material retention is almost 100%. The best approach to study is:

Add detail to the work to remember. (Drawing pictures or diagrams)

Reorganise information, rewrite notes with different colour pens, mind maps, set ideas to song, use initial letters to make up a word- ROYGBIV(red, orange, yellow etc) – colours of the rainbow.

SOHCAHTOA (Sine –opposite/ hypotenuse etc) - maths

Relate information to other material.

## **PRIMARY CAMPUS**

**In primary the focus should be on the important skills of Literacy and Numeracy. Regular reading at home is expected each night (Monday to Thursday). Homework should be family friendly in the Primary School.**

Older Primary students have tasks to find out information, preparing information and traditional writing tasks etc. (more than literacy and numeracy)

At McAuley Homework is given out by K-6 classes on a Monday and returned on the Friday of the same week. Teachers will mark (signed, dated and with written comments) the homework and return to students on the following Monday.

## **RECOMMENDED TIMES**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Time allocation</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Early Stage One (Kindergarten)	15-20 mins per day	10 mins reading, 5-10 mins spelling and sight words
Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)	20 mins per day	10 mins reading, 10 mins spelling, sight words and maths
Stage Two (Year 3 and Year 4)	20 mins per day	10 mins reading, 10 mins spelling and one other task (any KLA)
Stage Three (Year 5 and Year 6)	30 mins per day	10 mins reading, 10 mins spelling and 10 mins on one other task (any KLA)

**No weekend homework unless requested by the parent.**

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## **SECONDARY CAMPUS**

- |         |                              |                                |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ✓ Yr 7  | 30 mins per subject per week | English, maths, science (2x30) |
| ✓ Yr 8  | 30 mins per subject per week | English, maths, science (2x30) |
| ✓ Yr 9  | 30 mins per subject per week | English, maths, science (2x45) |
| ✓ Yr 10 | 60 mins per subject per week | English, maths, science (2x60) |

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Student responsibility**

- ✓ Being aware of expectations of homework
- ✓ Be sure all assignments are clear- ask questions if you are uncertain
- ✓ Set aside regular time for homework and study
- ✓ Do your best to return assignments on the due date.
- ✓ Seek assistance when difficulties arise.
- ✓ Bring a note from parent or caregiver when homework can't be done or completed.
- ✓ Expect consequences for unexplained assignments/assessments not done (Year 5-10).

### **Parent responsibility**

- ✓ Encourage
- ✓ Suitable study area
- ✓ Help plan a homework schedule
- ✓ Younger children need more parental assistance with homework than older children.
- ✓ Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in homework but not to the extent of doing homework for them.
- ✓ On some occasions it is not possible for homework to be done. Teachers may request parents to sign in the homework grid that homework can't be done or is incomplete.
- ✓ If your child has difficulties with the homework please communicate this to the teacher.
- ✓ Listen to your child read.

### **Teacher responsibility**

- ✓ Set homework on a regular basis appropriate to what is being taught and to the age and ability level of the students being taught. (Ideally the homework is directly related to the curriculum being taught.
- ✓ Set a variety of constructive homework assignments.
- ✓ Check homework regularly.
- ✓ Mark homework in a timely fashion that is clearly signed, dated and written feedback given.
- ✓ Discuss with parents or caregivers any developing concerns with homework, and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RESOURCES**

Catholic Education Office Canberra Goulburn Homework Policy

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