



Home Learning Policy

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Reflection

In the College's daily life, the ways in which people interact with each other significantly affect each person's sense of self-worth, belonging and wellbeing. The fostering of high-quality interpersonal relationships (in Faith, Hope, and Love) among students, staff, and families is a responsibility shared by everyone.

"In short, there are three things that last: Faith, Hope and Love". (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Purpose

This policy provides clear guidelines about Home Learning expectations at MacKillop Catholic College to our community, staff and students.

The Purpose of Home Learning is to:

- reinforce and consolidate the school curriculum
- revise and practise basic knowledge and skills
- help students grow and become independent learners
- encourage and continually develop self-discipline, self-organisation and study habits
- pre-reading for the next lesson
- working on assignments
- involve parents in the educational process by providing an insight into their child's learning experiences and the opportunity to engage in conversation with their child about their learning.

It is part of the College's Mission Statement to develop "independent learners". Learning is enhanced through the provision of opportunities outside of school hours to review, reinforce and apply what has been learned during the day. Understanding the difference between completing daily Home Learning, and studying for long term retention and comprehension is crucial for academic success.

Policy

Home Learning is any time spent on assigned and unassigned learning activities outside the classroom. It is an important part of every child's development from before their entry to formal schooling in Prep, through to their graduation in Year 12 and provides opportunities for students to develop independent study habits as they grow and mature into lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Designed to complement classroom learning, Home Learning is consolidatory, benefitting students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. Furthermore, it strengthens the partnership between school and home, allowing parents to take an active role in their child's learning.

Importantly, **reading is the highest priority activity**. All students should be reading every evening. This can be a combination of reading out loud (even for older students, this assists with fluency), reading silently and being read to (modelled reading). To create an interesting reading environment, it is ideal to have a good supply of reading materials — newspapers, magazines, books, and catalogues. It doesn't matter if they're owned or borrowed, new or used. What is important is that reading materials are a natural part of your home and everyday life.

Home Learning in the Secondary Campus is a crucial tool to support the consolidation of knowledge and retrieval of schema developed in class, by helping to combat the forgetting curve. As such, it is one of our givens, and the completion of all set Home Learning is expected.

The setting of Home Learning is subject dependent. It can also include revision and working towards assessment milestones. Home Learning can include, but is not limited to:

- ✓ Responding to set tasks that consolidate classroom work
- ✓ Completion of unfinished work
- ✓ Revision of key concepts and skills across subject areas
- ✓ Developing automaticity and fluency tasks
- ✓ Practising specific skills, such as mathematical problem solving, essay writing, short response items, etc
- ✓ Reading and annotation of set texts
- ✓ Viewing or listening to set material
- ✓ Projects, assignments and research

Rationale

MacKillop Catholic College aims to inspire a life-long love of learning through 21st Century pedagogy, supported by quality research and educational best-practice. Both the New South Wales Department of Education and the Victorian Government's comprehensive review of home learning has indicated that Home Learning at the Primary school level has little impact on academic performance but may play an important transitional role in preparing students for Secondary school and beyond. Studies have shown that there is a measurable, but small benefit for students in Lower Secondary. For Senior Secondary students, Home Learning was shown to have a substantial positive effect.

Home Learning promotes retrieval practice, which is a strategy that provides students the opportunity to retain information by reinforcing learning. Retrieval practice combats the forgetting curve, strengthens connections and improves long term memory.

A notable exception to this is home reading, which research consistently finds contributes significantly to student academic success, particularly across aspects of literacy, and at all stages of students' experience.

Consequently, the Home Learning requirements at MacKillop Catholic College will ebb and flow, following the rhythm of classroom learning and increasing over time as students mature.

Outcomes/Expectations/Responsibilities

OUTCOMES

Definitions

Home Learning is general work set by a teacher for completion at home.

Study is revision and reinforcement of work covered. Study can include but is not limited to:

- Work on assignments
- Revision of past work
- Daily reviews of work covered in class
- Reading of reference material and wider reading.

All Home Learning should be written in the student diary. Set Home Learning that is not completed will be followed up and if necessary, the parents are informed of regular or repeatedly missed and incomplete work and formal consequences issued by class/subject teacher and/or Head of Department. If students are not assigned Home Learning, it is advised that students use their time to study the coursework.

EXPECTATIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

The following table outlines the expectations for students in the implementation of a Home Learning program that will most benefit their learning.

Prep – Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camera Words • Decodable Readers • Mathematical concepts for retrieval 	15 minutes weekly
Years 4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Spelling • Mathematical concepts for retrieval • Maths facts-tables • Continuation of classroom projects 	25 minutes per school night Years 3-4 – 20-30 minutes weekly Years 5-6 – 30-45 minutes weekly
Years 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home reading/novel study • Numeracy and Literacy Revision • Long term assignment work related to study areas • Study for exams • Completion/extension of class work as directed by the teacher 	30minutes – 1hour Any work as set by teacher.
Years 9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home reading/novel study. • Numeracy and Literacy Revision. • Revision of daily class work. • Long term assignment work related to study areas. • Study for exams. • Completion/extension of class work as directed by the teacher. 	1.5 – 2 hours Any work as set by teacher.
Years 11-12	<p>The amount of time devoted to Home Learning and independent study will vary according to the student’s learning needs and individual program of learning determined through their Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan.</p> <p>In general students should 2-3 hours per night.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of daily class work. • Long term assignment work related to students’ elective and core subjects. • Study for exams. • Completion/extension of class work as directed by the teacher. 	2 – 3 hours Any work as set by teacher.

Students:

Students can take responsibility for their own learning:

- Complete/attempt all Home Learning to the best of their ability.
- Discuss with their parents or caregivers home learning expectations.
- Accept responsibility for the completion of Home Learning tasks within set time frames
- Submit all Home Learning on time.
- Follow up on comments made by teachers.
- Seek assistance when difficulties arise.
- Organise their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.
- Check the assessment calendar on a regular basis (Secondary).

Teachers:

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study:

- Set Home Learning on a regular basis.
- Clearly communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of all Home Learning.
- Check Home Learning regularly and provide timely and useful feedback.
- Set home learning that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs.
- Explicitly teach strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through Home Learning.
- Give consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting Home Learning.
- Discuss with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's home learning and suggesting strategies to assist with their home learning.

Parents:

Parents and caregivers can help their children:

- Set a consistent time for Home Learning to be completed
- Encourage children to complete all Home Learning set, preferably as soon as possible rather than waiting for the night before
- Talk with children and involve them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity (Primary)
- Encourage them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning
- Encourage children to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- Help children balance the amount of time spent completing Home Learning, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities
- Contact the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of Home Learning and their children's approach to the Home Learning.
- Support/facilitate/supervise children, especially at the start of the year to ensure that they fully concentrate on the tasks required
- Provide appropriate equipment/environment that enables children to immerse themselves in the study without distractions
- Establish a consistent routine for completing Home Learning to best meet the needs of your family and other commitments

- Check/view child's Home Learning and take a real interest in the development of their assignments whenever possible

Enquires

Enquiries can be directed to the following College staff:

- Class Teacher
- Heads of Department
- Secondary Heads of Year
- Deputy Principal - Primary
- Deputy Principal – Secondary

Contact us via the College email – office.mountpeter@cns.catholic.edu.au

Related Directives, Policies and Procedures

<https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/stages-of-schooling/p-12>