



HOMework POLICY

1. Rationale

The St Patrick's College Mission Statement identifies excellence in teaching and learning as the core business of the College. It is anticipated that students will leave the College as young men who have a commitment to life-long learning. Therefore, they will have a commitment to accepting and undertaking the academic challenges that they will face throughout their schooling at St Patrick's College and the learning experiences beyond. To develop a community that expects excellence in teaching and learning, all stakeholders, including staff, parents and students, must accept the responsibility of developing an environment of academic rigour within the culture of the college. Consequently, to develop such a culture, it is important that students understand and accept the responsibility of undertaking the homework and study that is expected within each of their chosen subjects and Year Levels. Furthermore, there is an expectation that the homework and study be completed according to subject requirements and teacher expectations and be a reflection of the student's best abilities.

2. Application

Teaching staff, students and parents

3. Policy Statement

INTRODUCTION

Homework includes both written homework and study/revision. It provides students the opportunity to consolidate their classroom learning. It does this by requiring them to complete set work that strengthens and reinforces the learning work that they cover within the classroom.

It also allows the students to attempt this work without the direct supervision of the subject teacher, gauge whether they understand the work and to complete it without any further help; or to identify the particular areas of the work that they may struggle to understand. They can then use this information to seek further help from the classroom teacher during school time.

Homework also allows students to involve family members with their learning. Not only are family members another resource of help to students but assisting with homework also allows them to see what the student is doing in each subject.

Homework also helps direct students into becoming more independent learners who are able to attempt work without the direct supervision of a teacher. If unable to complete the work initially, the student can seek a solution using his own abilities and resources.

Therefore, homework can engage independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- Revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning.
- Applying knowledge and skills in new contexts.
- Pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively.
- Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning.

Whilst St Patrick's College has clear expectations about the setting and completion of homework, the college also recognizes that such work needs to allow for student commitment to recreational, school, employment, family and cultural activities. The homework should also be appropriate to the student's ability and particular year level. The following expectations address these issues:

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

The college expects that each student will take responsibility for completing written homework and study each evening. The amount of homework to be set each day will vary according to the particular year level requirements, courses of study and individual student abilities. As a guide, the following times (each school night) are suggested as minimum if students expect to achieve the best possible results.

3.1

APPROXIMATELY

3.2	Year Five	45 minutes	
	Year Six	45 minutes	
	Year Seven	1 hour	(45 mins written homework)
3.3	Year Eight	1 ½ hours	(1 hr written homework)
	Year Nine	1 ½ hours	(1 hr written homework)
	Year Ten	2 hours	(1½ hrs written homework)
	Year Eleven	3 hours	(2 hrs written homework)
	Year Twelve	3 hours	(2 hrs written homework)

It is also understood that there may be reasons why, on some occasions, students will be unable to complete this work. On these occasions, parents and caregivers are requested to write a note in the Student Diary explaining the reason their son was unable to complete the homework.

Furthermore, it is not unusual for some students to take longer to complete homework than others due to individual abilities and other factors. In such cases, if the student has attempted the homework within the time guidelines mentioned above and been unable to finish the set work, it is permissible for parents to write a note in the student diary to this effect. This will be acceptable to the subject teacher(s).

Student Diaries

Students at St Patrick's College are supplied with a Student Diary at the beginning of each school year. The diaries are given to the students to help them with their organization skills. These diaries have two primary functions. Firstly, they are a means of communication between teachers and parents. Parents are requested to write any notes regarding the student in the diary so that the teacher can view the comments and respond wherever necessary. Likewise, teachers will also make notes regarding student behaviour, concerns regarding assignments or homework, notes of commendation and general notes within the diary. Parents are requested to peruse their son's diary each week and sign to show that they have seen the diary for the particular week. This allows teachers to know whether their comments and notes have been seen by parents.

Secondly, the diary is to be carried by students to all classes and must be placed on the desk at the beginning of each period. At the completion of each lesson, the student will be required to write the homework and study requirements for that lesson in the diary. Each student then has a written record of the homework and study requirements for each evening.

A student who loses his diary can obtain a replacement from the Student Office. However, there will be a cost for the new diary.

If the student forgets his diary on a particular day, he is required to obtain a single page diary entry sheet for that day from the Student Office. The diary is considered college property and it is expected that it will be well maintained at all times, without graffiti or inappropriate pictures. Failure to maintain the diary to the required standard will mean that student must buy a new diary.

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Staff at St Patrick's College will help students establish a routine of regular, independent homework and study by:

- Ensuring that the College Homework Policy is implemented.
- Setting homework on a regular basis and as required by subject demands.
- Clearly communicating the purpose and expectations of all homework.
- Setting homework that is varied, challenging and related to class-work, subject skills and students' learning needs.
- Explaining strategies and expectations for revision and study within each subject.
- Correcting set homework as close to the date of completion as possible.
- Explicitly teaching strategies to develop organizational and time management skills and providing the chance to practice these skills through homework.
- Discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning a student's homework and suggesting strategies to assist in this area.
- Ensuring that students know how to correctly record their homework in their College diaries.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Regarding the matter of homework and study, it is expected that students see this as taking **responsibility** for their own learning. They can do this by:

- Being aware of the College's Homework Policy.
- Discussing homework expectations with parents and caregivers.
- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames.
- Following up on comments made by teachers.
- Seeking assistance when difficulties arise.
- Organizing time to manage home obligations; participation in sporting activities, recreational and cultural activities, and part-time employment.
- Record homework and study in their College diary during each lesson.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Whilst parent and caregiver participation in homework and study activities is encouraged, it must also be done with the student's responsibility in mind. At St Patrick's College, parent interest in their son's schooling is considered to be vitally important and linked to student interest and success at school. Assisting students in completing homework is one way that parents and caregivers can be involved in the student's schoolwork. However, the final work completed for homework needs to be the **student's** work.

To enable this to occur, parents and caregivers can help by:

- Helping the student to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing him to resources.
- Encouraging him to organize his time and take responsibility for his learning.
- Encouraging him to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events.
- Helping him to learn to balance the amount of time spent completing homework with watching television, using the computer, playing sport and engaging in other recreational pursuits.
- Contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the homework and the students approach to study.
- Working with College and student to ensure that the correct homework and study requirements for each day have been recorded in the College diary. Signing the College diary each week to signify that this has been done.

CONSEQUENCES IF HOMEWORK IS NOT COMPLETED

As previously set out within this policy, students are expected to complete a minimum amount of homework and study each school evening. It is the student's responsibility to complete this work to the best of his ability. While it is understood that on some occasions a student may not be able to complete set work, if homework is NOT completed and there is no valid explanation in the student's diary, the subject teacher will make a note in the student diary explaining that the work was not completed. The diary note is to be signed by the parent(s) or caregiver.

Other possible consequences include:

- The teacher may set the student extra homework to be completed the next evening.
- The student may be placed on lunchtime detention.
- For consistent failure to complete homework, the student may be given a detention after school.
- An interview with the student's parents/caregiver and the Dean of Teaching and Learning may be arranged.

Responsible Officer		Dean of Teaching and Learning	
Review		December 2017	
Associated Documents		Student Diary	
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[1.2]	College Principal	[05/ 05/2010]	[05/05/2010]