



Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College

HOMEWORK POLICY 2016–2017

COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College is a community where all are valued as children of God with gifts and talents to develop and share with our world:

Inspired by the Spirit of God we strive to:

- **Be a community where we always behave in a way which respects the dignity of each person.**
- **Provide a learning culture which challenges all to achieve their potential.**
- **Promote the growth, health and wellbeing of all through high quality enriching experiences in a safe and secure environment.**
- **Support all members of the College community and celebrate their achievements.**
- **Nurture the journey of faith and discovery of each individual; enabling all to take their places in our diverse society as confident Christian citizens, alive with the love of God.**

Rationale

This policy has been produced to provide a coherent framework from which all faculties can develop a consistent and effective approach for students of all ages and levels of ability.

Homework is seen as one of the principal ways in which student achievement can be raised. The benefits of doing homework must be instilled at an early age in all students, so that independent home study becomes routine.

The aim of this policy is to:

- develop within students/parents and carers the belief that learning outside the classroom extends and enriches learning that takes place in college
- enable students to understand that independent learning is vital to achieving success
- give every student the opportunity to fulfil their potential
- instil in all students the importance of life-long learning
- provide training for students in planning & organising time
- promote a responsibility for learning within each student

For homework to be effective it has to be stimulating and challenging whilst being supported through the quality of the teaching and learning occurring in the classroom. Teaching

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approaches are suitably varied with appropriately chosen activities and learning experiences. It is on this basis that this policy should not be seen in isolation but as part of the learning and teaching at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College

Purposes of Homework

There are many reasons for setting homework, examples of which may include:

- to encourage and develop self-discipline, study habits and a range of skills in planning and organising time
- to allow reinforcing, extending and consolidating of learning completed in class
- to allow for pre-reading and preparation for learning to be delivered in the future.
- to give students experience of working on their own, and to develop in students a sense of responsibility and commitment to their own learning
- to involve parents/carers as partners in students learning
- to prepare for assessments/examinations
- to further challenge, extend and support all children of all abilities and talents
- to embed the skills for revision in preparation for linear exams

Principles Underlying Homework Policy

- Homework should be a carefully planned and an integral part of the taught curriculum and should be stimulating and challenging.
- Homework should promote opportunities for securing, embedding and mastering skills, knowledge and understanding.
- Homework should match the needs and abilities of students.
- Homework should be issued in appropriate quantities, and completion dates should be both clear and reasonable, taking account of out of college activities of students, including family and cultural obligations.
- Homework should not be restricted to certain subject areas. It should reflect the breadth and balance of the curriculum.
- Students must take full responsibility for their homework and should be supported by their teachers and parents/carers.

Types of Homework

Practice exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- exercises to secure skills, knowledge and understanding
- exercises that embed and master skills, knowledge and understanding
- revising information about a current topic and in preparation for tests and examinations
- practising words or phrases learned in a language other than English
- reading for pleasure
- writing for pleasure including extended writing

Preparatory homework – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

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- Background reading
- Reading e.g. English text for class discussion
- Researching topics for a class unit of work
- Collecting items e.g. geometric shapes

Extended Learning Pieces – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively over a period of time, including:

- writing e.g. a book review
- making or designing something e.g. an art work, geographic piece such as a volcano
- investigations e.g. science, social science
- researching e.g. history, local news

When setting homework, however, regard should be taken for equity issues when setting that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged and in these circumstances the use of the college homework club should be encouraged.

Teachers and Progress Tutors should:

- Class Teachers should issue and monitor regularly, homework undertaken by students whilst ensuring that instructions are stated clearly.
- Teachers should also ensure that homework issued is recorded by all students in the students' planner and sufficient time is afforded to this task.
- Progress Tutors will ensure homework is being recorded and completed in line with the agreed role of the progress tutor.
- Progress Tutors will support teachers in cases of non completion of homework via the Positive Behaviour Policy

Parents/Carers should:

- Support their child with homework as much as possible and ensure a quiet working environment for this to be completed.
- Provide equipment and materials to aid completion of homework tasks.
- Sign the student planner weekly to ensure students are recording and completing homework on time.
- Contact their child's teacher if they have concerns over homework.
- The quality of homework will be reported to parents/carers at each data collection throughout the year.

The Role of Students

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- At every stage, students should recognise the value of homework, and be fully aware of its capacity to improve learning.
- Students should record all homework accurately and a date for completion.
- Students should complete all homework, on time and to the best of their ability.
- Student should plan their homework, to ensure that their workload is as evenly spread as possible.
- Students should seek appropriate support to ensure that they are able to complete tasks set for homework from their class teacher or other appropriate adult.

Non Completion of Homework

- Any system to ensure the completion of homework must ultimately involve working in partnership with parents/carers and the students involved.
- All guidance re non completion of homework will be issued in line with the Positive Behaviour Policy

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