



CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE
CAROLINE SPRINGS

Homework Policy

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Approver	Principal
Date Approved	May 2018
Review Date	May 2021

Catholic Regional College Caroline Springs **Homework Policy & Guidelines**



Rationale

It is a requirement for all Victorian Schools to develop a homework policy in consultation with their school community (including the principal, teachers, parents/carers and students) and that the policy is communicated to all parents.

The current evidence and research shows that the quality of homework assigned is likely to be more important than the quantity. Research has established that homework has a positive effect on learning, particularly at the middle and secondary levels (Xu, 2010; Zimmerman & Kitsantas, 2005 cited in Victorian State Government, Homework Guidelines).

Policy Statement

At Catholic Regional College Caroline Springs we believe homework should be a meaningful and worthwhile experience for students and is most effective in supporting learning when it has a clear purpose.

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behavior for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and community and cultural pursuits.

Scripture

Romans 15:4

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Roles and responsibilities



Catholic Regional College Caroline Springs supports our students by:

- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and providing them with a copy of the homework policy
- ensure that students use homework dairies or SEQTA to provide a regular communication between parents and the school. Diaries may be electronic.

Teachers support students by:

- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensuring parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy.

Parents/carers support students by:

- developing a positive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community groups.

Students take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

Recommended Homework Time:



Homework for Year 7



In Year 7, homework may be set across the curriculum. Homework may include regular tasks and assignments that require investigation.

The College will support students to develop time management skills, guide them to become more independent learners and ensure their workloads are manageable. This is particularly important for Year 7 who are transitioning to secondary school.

As a guide students may receive up to five hours balanced over the week. No holiday homework given, apart from pre-reading of English texts and other reading, although students may choose to collect materials or work on assignment if they choose.

Homework for Year 8



In Year 8, homework may be set across the curriculum. Homework may include regular tasks, assignments that require investigation and preparation for examinations (Year 8 English and Maths).

The College will support students to develop time management skills, guide them to become more independent learners and ensure their workloads are manageable.

As a guide students may receive up to six hours balanced over the week. No holiday homework given, apart from pre-reading of English texts and other reading, although students may choose to collect materials or work on assignment if they choose.

Homework for Year 9



In Year 9, homework may be set on a regular basis across the curriculum. Homework might include practice that complements work learnt in class, assignments, as well as preparing for assessment tasks and studying for exams.

The College will continue supporting students to develop their time management skills and encourage independent work.

As a guide students may receive up to 8 hours balanced over the week. During holiday periods, students may be expected to work on assignments or complete preparatory or practice homework. Homework loads will vary during different times of the year.

Homework for Year 10



In Year 10, homework may be set on a regular basis across the curriculum. Homework might include practice that complements work learnt in class, assignments, as well as preparing for assessment tasks and studying for exams.

The College will continue supporting students to develop their time management skills and encourage independent work.

As a guide students may receive up to 10 hours balanced over the week. During holiday periods, students may be expected to work on assignments or complete preparatory or practice homework. Homework loads will vary during different times of the year.

VCE/ VET



Students undertaking VCE or VET courses are advised to refer to Catholic Regional College Sydenham Student Handbook.

Term Holidays



Term holidays create an important opportunity for students to be with family and friends and for extracurricular activities, although students may also be expected to complete work over the holidays such as reading novels, collecting materials for the next term, assignments or preparatory work.

Where a parent/carer is concerned that a student is overwhelmed with homework requirements, they are advised to contact the subject teacher setting the homework.

Homework Non-completion:



Where a student fails to complete set homework and/or assessment tasks, the parents/carers are informed of this via SEQTA generated emails. Where this is a common occurrence, subject teachers will contact parents/carers by phone to discuss the issue.

Homework catch-up is designed to assist student completion of homework and/or assessment tasks. It will take place in Room MM1 every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime from 1:00pm to 1:30pm (please see Homework Catch-Up Guidelines 2018).

Monitoring, evaluation and review



Mechanisms are in place to monitor the amount of homework across all subjects to ensure that students' workloads are manageable.

SEQTA generated reports for assessment task due dates must be up to date.

References



Victorian State Government Education and Training