



St Columba's
Catholic Primary School

God's Glory Always

Homework Position

October 2019

This document builds on the work of Homework practices developed at St. Columba's School over a number of years. In late 2011, the school community committed to formally reviewing the school's Homework practices, resulting in the review of existing practices and consideration of contemporary research, together with professional development, focussed discussion and consultation. This was led by a Homework Committee, whose members included:

John O'Connor - Principal

Michelle Kneen – Assistant Principal Administration

Elizabeth McCabe – Primary Learning Leader

Michelle Craven – Support Teacher Inclusive Education

Cath Davidson – Support Teacher Inclusive Education

Michael Robertson – Teacher

Chelsea Harkness – Teacher

Elizabeth Kriesch – Teacher

Terence Brown – Teacher

Ricardo Bonasia - Teacher

Bronwyn Edwards – Teacher

Dylan Ryan – Teacher

Jen Caro – Parent representative – School Pastoral Board

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St. Columba's Mission Statement

The St. Columba's Mission Statement underpins our core work around all aspects of teaching and learning at St. Columba's. So too, in our striving towards the Benedictine value of **BALANCE**, to we look to our mission in the creation of our position on homework at St. Columba's.

ST. COLUMBA'S
Catholic Primary School WILSTON

Mission Statement

At St. Columba's we provide a comprehensive education in the Catholic tradition based on the spirit of our founders, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. We offer opportunity for every child in academic, sporting and cultural endeavours and we strive to maximise each child's potential with excellence and care in our teaching. We cherish enduring relationships between our school, our parish and our community as we live the Benedictine values of:

- Prayer
- Peace
- Partnership
- Word of God
- Balance
- Hospitality
- Stewardship
- Healing
- Listening
- Community
- Compassion
- Humility

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Definition

Homework is defined as any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet particular learning aims / needs.

Rationale

Homework provides students with opportunities to reinforce and consolidate their classroom learning, develop skills and establish patterns of behaviour to develop as lifelong learners and, to some degree, involve family members in student learning. It also provides a means of communication with parents about their child's learning and progress.

School's agreed Position Statement

Homework is an integral part of teaching and learning at St. Columba's School.

As with any instruction strategy, homework brings with it the hope of improving student learning. To this end, the St. Columba's community have developed a set of guiding intents and principles for Homework, supported by research and which focus on Quality, Management and Communication.

The Benedictine value of **BALANCE** is the key and while homework is important for students, so too are the other healthy activities that young people need to undertake.

Good communication between teachers, students and parents is also very important to ensure students reach their full potential.

Principles:

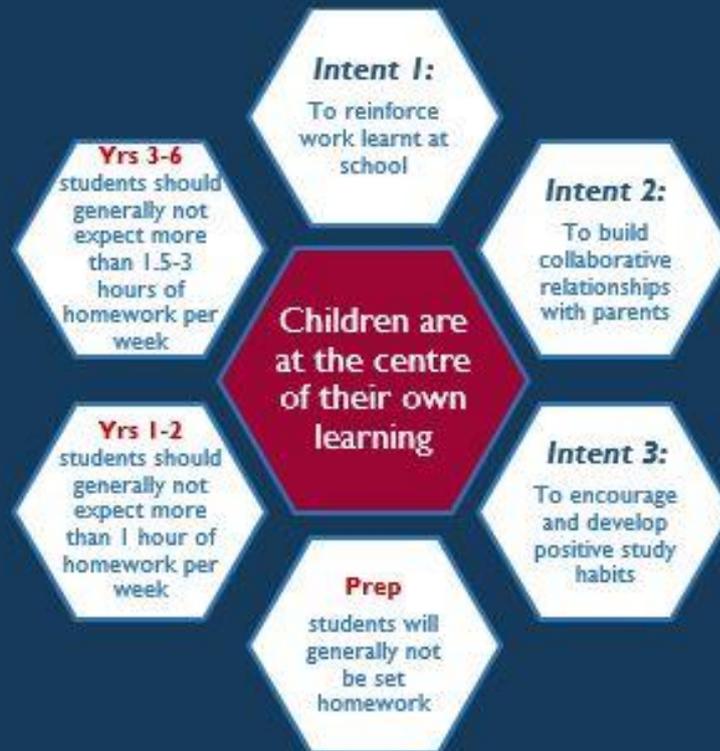
- The quality of the homework task given is more important than the quantity
- Quality teaching and both teacher and student attitude towards homework matters
- Some skills require practice and reinforcement
- Children differ in readiness for new learning, as well as in developmental level, and learning style
- Homework is purposeful and designed to meet specific learning needs, both collective and individualised
- Requirements for homework are clearly stated and made explicit during school hours
- Homework is varied and challenging , but achievable
- Flexible options are offered to students, particularly with regard to accessing resources and digital technologies
- Consideration is given to children's and families lives, with commitments and responsibilities outside of school hours
- Clarity is required regarding homework expectations and the completion of tasks
- Interactive homework provides opportunity for families to support their child's learning, and thus enabling constructive engagement
- Guidance and assistance to provide the opportunity for maximum student success and minimum frustration is valued and encouraged

Any queries regarding homework should be directed to the class teacher as soon as they arise.

The St. Columba's position on Homework is best summarised using the following infographic:



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Homework is personalised to the needs of individual students
Homework tasks requiring digital technologies may be used to
enhance student learning

Homework is not 'new' or 'busy' work

Homework at St. Columba's

We're on a journey... this is where we start!

Student Responsibility

- Students agree to take responsibility for their own learning
- Students know what their school and teacher expects of them
- Students understand that their results will be better if they take home everything they need to complete their homework
- Students agree to finish homework tasks on time
- Students know they can talk to family members / carers about homework and can ask for support
- Students know that they can ask their teacher/s about concerns regarding homework
- Students of an appropriate age, can discern how to plan and organise their time effectively so that other home and extra-curricular activities can be managed and achieved
- Students agree to bringing completed tasks back to school for submission and marking

Parent Responsibility

- Parents agree to support their children in taking responsibility for their learning which includes the completion of set homework tasks
- Parents know that they can discuss any concerns regarding homework and student needs with their child's teacher in the first instance
- Parents agree to support and assist their children as necessary in the planning and organisation of their time, including home activities, so that homework tasks are achievable and manageable
- Parents are encouraged to discuss with their child's teacher if their child is having difficulty in completing homework tasks within the suggested time guidelines

Staff Responsibility

- Staff agree to support their students in the clear expectations that are set around homework tasks and their completion
- Staff know that it is important to set homework tasks that are specifically suited to their individual student needs
- Staff agree to set tasks in accordance with the Homework policy, including being mindful of the suggested time guidelines, and ensuring that tasks are achievable and manageable whilst still providing challenge where appropriate
- Staff agree to mark homework tasks and give students any feedback as required