



MacKillop College

Policy: Homework

Introduction

MacKillop College seeks to educate the whole person through learning that is student centred, engaging, authentic and purposeful. This type of learning brings hope and is based on the certainty of the promise of God's love for us and is central to the educational mission of the Church (Most Rev. Denis J Hart, 2011). Homework at MacKillop College is defined as all school related preparation, tasks and study with which students engage, and attempt to complete outside of class time. Informed by current educational research, homework that leads to learning is:

- purposeful and relevant to student needs
- appropriate to the capability and phase of learning of the students
- encouraging of student independence as learners
- varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- both aware and allowing of student commitment to recreational, employment, family, religious and cultural activities

Principles

MacKillop College is committed to an understanding of homework as that which engages students in personalised and independent learning to complement work undertaken in class. Consistent with the homework expectations established in the DEECD *School Policy and Advisory Guide* (2013), this may include the:

- revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practicing for mastery in all areas e.g. musical instrument)
- application of knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest and authentic local issue e.g. surveying local opinion)
- pursuit of individual and imaginative knowledge (investigating, research, writing, designing and making e.g. preparation for an essay, development of a recipe)
- preparation for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials items and information e.g. media article to inform an oral presentation)

Objectives

MacKillop College aims to establish as a consistent practice that homework:

- requires due follow up or feedback from the teacher
- is only set when purposeful
- equates to less than the contact time in the respective classroom and increases through the year levels
- is coordinated across learning areas and year levels to avoid unreasonable workloads for students
- has a scope and sequence as part of the intended curriculum

Implementation

i) Principal commitment

The principal is responsible for ensuring that:

- student diaries are accessible
- parents are advised of the College's homework expectations at the beginning of an academic year
- the objectives of this policy are integrated into practice

ii) Staff Commitment

Staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- homework is meaningful and relevant
- homework is authentic and practical
- differentiation takes place to meet the needs of the respective student or cohort
- homework is followed up in a legitimate and timely manner
- the expected duration of the homework for the respective year level needs to be adhered to i.e. much less than the contact time with the students

- they contact parents/guardians if a student regularly does not complete set homework
- they communicate unresolved concerns with their respective coordinators, team leaders and learning area leaders
- student diaries are used to log homework and as a means of communication between parents/guardians and the College

This policy works in conjunction with the following documents:

- The Assessment Policy
- The Learning and Teaching Policy
- MacKillop Subject Handbooks

Policy last reviewed

May 2013

Signature

Rory Kennedy
(Principal)

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