

# St Mary's Secondary School

## Homework Policy

### Introduction

At St Mary's Secondary School, it is expected that students are given and complete homework. Its frequency and its nature may vary according to the subject area needs and year group.

Homework is an integral part of the education process and should be set with educational objectives in mind. It extends learning opportunities beyond the confines of the classroom. Homework and practice give students opportunities to deepen understanding and proficiency with the content they are learning. Students need practice to gain mastery when learning a new skill. Homework also provides an opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education and extends and complements the partnership between school and home. Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Feedback by teachers on homework is a crucial step in the learning process and without timely feedback some of the learning benefits of homework may be reduced.

Whilst homework is an important component of the teaching and learning process, we acknowledge that it is important for students to have time for play, to participate in leisure and physical activities outside of school. Homework should be a rewarding, positive experience for students, teachers, and families and not a source of additional stress.

Homework is a useful part of a student's learning as it fosters time management and organisational skills, which each enhance learning. All homework must have a purpose and must be marked. It is important we teach our students the importance of revision and study skills.

## Rational/Purpose

St Mary's Secondary School recognises that a Homework and Study Plan has a positive effect on student achievement. We set homework for the following reasons:

- To develop the habit of being organised and self- disciplined, so that students learn to fit various commitments into their day.
- To help students use their time wisely and to learn to prioritise to ensure that all work is done and eases time constraints in the curriculum
- allow regular revision to be completed and go over 'difficult' work and if necessary, seek clarification
- To allow students the time to pre-reading in preparation for a new topic
- develop independence and responsibility and helps parents to keep in touch with the work their children are doing
- Catching up on work missed when families take time off from school that is not in the normal vacation times.
- Consolidation of classwork – ongoing revision is needed to embed information. What better way to do this than a little bit each night rather than a larger amount less frequently?
- To work on assessment tasks.

## Guidelines

In preparing a Home/Study Plan, a student will need to consider other commitments, work to be done around the home, favourite television programs, etc. None of these, however, is a valid excuse for homework being neglected. Students in Years 7-10 may find it necessary to use some of their weekend time for completion of homework and assignments. Students in Years 7-10 will encounter an increasing workload due to set homework, study, revision, and assignment work. It is expected that extra study will be needed towards the end of each term.

To assist students with their organization they are required to use a Homework Dairy. From the start of term 2, students that demonstrate commendable organisational skills can move to using a form of electronic diary. To assist students further to fulfill their academic requirements, the supervised Study Hall will be available to them every second break.

Teachers should attempt to cater for individual differences when setting homework. Attempts should be made to consolidate the achievement level of weaker students and to extend those students who have already mastered the work.

- Homework must be recorded in a homework diary
- Homework will be monitored regularly by teachers
- Parents will be contacted if a student regularly fails to complete homework tasks.

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Per Night</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set work</li> <li>• Work completion</li> <li>• Investigations</li> <li>• Assignment research</li> <li>• Revision study</li> <li>• Reading</li> </ul>	40 mins - minimum 60 mins - maximum
<b>Years 8 &amp; 9</b>		1 hours - minimum 2 hours - maximum
<b>Years 10</b>		2 hours/night minimum 3 hours/night maximum

## Review

Effective Date: Term 1 2022

Review Date: Term 4 2022

Reviewed: