

Homework Policy

BIBLICAL BASIS

Proverbs 6:4-11

⁴ Allow no sleep to your eyes, no slumber to your eyelids.⁵ Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler.⁶ Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!⁷ It has no commander, no overseer or ruler,⁸ yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.⁹ How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest- ¹¹ and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

Proverbs 13:14-20

¹⁴ The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.¹⁵ Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.¹⁶ Every prudent man acts out of knowledge, but a fool exposes his folly. ¹⁷ A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy envoy brings healing.¹⁸ He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.¹⁹ A longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil. ²⁰ He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 22:5-6

⁵ In the paths of the wicked lie thorns and snares, but he who guards his soul stays far from them.⁶ Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Philippians 2:14-16

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life.

PREAMBLE

As a Christian school community, we seek to honour God by acknowledging the God given authority, rights and responsibilities of parents and teachers. We believe that academic success should not be seen as an end in itself, but as a means of glorifying God through the wise use of God given abilities, opportunities and time. As with every other aspect of life, we believe that students should strive to achieve their academic potential to glorify God rather than self. We believe that it is the task of the home and school to teach children that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, acknowledging that this is an ongoing educational and life task.

VALUE OF HOMEWORK

Children should be trained to prioritise their lives to give proper acknowledgment to the importance of home life, church, school and leisure time. While homework is important it should not impact in an unhelpful manner on the family. Our schools needs to be sensitive to the home so that it does not become the major priority in the family during non-school hours.

Homework forms an important part of a child's school education, particularly in the latter years of schooling. To be ready for the rigour of the senior years, students need to be practised in an ordered lifestyle, giving homework and study their appropriate place. The development of God given abilities and achievement of academic success at the ability level of each student is, to some degree, dependent upon the development and application of rigorous home study patterns. For students to perform effectively in external examinations such as the Higher School Certificate independent home study is essential. Effective study will potentially open up a wider range of options for future work and ministry, increasing each person's opportunities for service of God.

PARENTAL RESPONSE

Homework assists parents in fulfilling their responsibilities to train their children to develop God honouring understandings and patterns of behaviour in relation to the use of their time and talents. The patterns that we model and help them establish at home as children should reflect those which we would expect of them as adults in the future.

PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

- To provide an opportunity for parents and their children to delight together in learning more of God and His creation.
- To provide an opportunity for parents to become informed and actively involved in their child's learning, assisting where necessary.
- To continue and extend learning experiences which have begun at school using resources, human or other, at home and in the community.
- To allow time and opportunity for concentrated study areas where special effort is needed, in remediation, the practise of skills and extension activities.
- To develop disciplined individual study habits that will encourage students to work independently.

IMPLEMENTATION OF HOMEWORK

- Within the constraints of the syllabus, teachers should not use homework to cover new ground nor should they use it as a vital link in the progression of the program.
- Teachers should be clear in their expectations of children regarding homework.
- It should be recognised that students of lower academic ability cannot cover as much work in the allotted time as those of higher ability. Emphasis should therefore be on the habit of independent study over a given length of time rather than on quantity and frequency.
- Care needs to be taken when dealing with children who have not completed homework. The overarching need to respond to situations and treat the children with grace should govern a teacher's response, whilst maintaining high expectations of the class.
- Whilst homework can help involve parents in their child's education, care needs to be taken regarding the type of homework set and the expectations and demands placed on parents in this area.
- Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers whenever issues arise that impede a child's progress in their homework tasks.
- While every effort should be made to complete homework, it is appropriate for parents to give their child permission not to complete homework if the circumstances require it. Parents should communicate this decision to the teacher. Such permission cannot apply to School Certificate and Higher School Certificate assessment tasks.

AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK

Over a period of a week homework should include: Reading (daily), Spelling (Years: 1-12) Mathematics, Research/Projects, Revision/Study Notes. Following is a guide to the daily amount of homework, study and assignments expected of students:

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|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Kindergarten | 10-15 minutes, 4 times per week. |
| Year 1 | 10-15 minutes, 4 times per week. |
| Year 2 | 20 minutes, 4 times per week. |

In Christ's service to partner with parents in providing a quality Christian Education founded on the Word of God

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| Year 3 & 4 | Approximately 30 minutes 4 times per week. |
| Year 5 & 6 | Approximately 40 minutes, 4 times per week. |
| Year 7 | Approximately 1 hour per night, 4 times per week |
| Year 8 | Approximately 1.5 hours per night, 4 times per week |
| Year 9 | Approximately 2 hours per night, 4 times per week |
| Year 10 | Approximately 2.5 hours per night, 5 times per week |
| Year 11 | Approximately 18 to 20 hours per week |
| Year 12 | Building to approximately 24 to 28 hours per week |

HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

It is important that school holidays be available for students to rest from the busy schedule of the school term, to spend greater time with family and to enjoy non-school activities that will encourage them to reflect upon God's goodness and grace. Holiday homework will therefore not be set for students from kindergarten to year 9.

As a part of the preparation of students for external examinations it is generally considered appropriate that school holiday homework be set for students in years 10, 11 and 12. For a two week holiday period it is anticipated that students allocate the following amount of time for homework:

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|---------|------------------------|
| Year 10 | Approximately 10 hours |
| Year 11 | Approximately 20 hours |
| Year 12 | Approximately 40 hours |

It is important that teachers ensure that the recommended number of hours for students translates into no more than an appropriate number of hours per subject studied. (Eg. Assuming that year 12 students undertake 10 units of study, there would be 4 hours of homework time per unit of study available for subject teachers to utilize.)

The "Pupil Free Week" may be regarded as a "Teacher Free Week" for senior students. Additional homework may be set for this week. The following amount of homework may be appropriate for this period:

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|---------|------------------------|
| Year 11 | Approximately 20 hours |
| Year 12 | Approximately 40 hours |

Policy History

| Version | Revised By | Approved | Description | Next Review |
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| 1.0 | | | | |
| 1.1 | G. Batten & C. Muscat | 19/11 | Minor changes to wording, suggested length of time for Homework adjusted and inclusion of Biblical Basis | 2013 |
| 1.2 | G. Batten & C. Muscat | 6/2/2014 | Removal of reference to School Certificate. | 2016 |
| 1.3 | Exec Assistant to Exec Principal | Pre-approved October 2016 | Change of operational name to ICE, Campus to School and reformatting | 2017 |