



HOMework POLICY

1. PURPOSE

St Hilda's recognises the need for students to balance their study with other aspects of their home life and to understand the ways in which they can support their learning outside of school. The purpose of this policy is to ensure a consistent understanding of the definitions, requirements and expectations of homework across the School.

2. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all staff and students.

3. BACKGROUND

Students need to develop skills to effectively manage time for homework.

The amount of time allocated by staff or a student for review or for new learning will vary from subject to subject and from time to time.

Management of study time is a crucial factor in academic achievement. Students are given help in this area in study skills programs and in classes, but the ultimate responsibility lies with the student. If work is planned well in advance, time can be allocated in effective ways. Leaving set work until the night before it is due, obviously, is very poor management of time.

Parents' discussion with their daughters about the way in which time is allocated to homework, should cover the need for time for activities other than homework in the student's life - extracurricular activities, family activities and recreation all take their place. Systematic planning and study routines should ensure that girls are not overloaded and that their lives do not become unbalanced.

4. DEFINITIONS

Nil

5. LEGISLATION

Nil

6. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Assessment Policy

7. GUIDELINES

7.1 JUNIOR SCHOOL

The time given to homework and independent study should include enough time for a girl's own choice of work as well as for work set by the teacher. Younger students will need help to develop good study habits. It is important for students to have a set time and place to study, free from distractions of people and noise. It is also important that they do not develop negative attitudes to private study because it is imposed, as if a chore or a punishment. Children vary in the time it takes them to accomplish their work and the amount of work given varies, suggested times are outlined in section 7.3.

7.2 SENIOR SCHOOL

Some students regard homework as being work set by a teacher which has to be done by a certain time. However, homework should be seen as any student learning activity which is not dealt with in class contact time. Homework is an integral part of a student's learning program. It can be student initiated or set by a teacher and it generally falls into the following categories:

- **Review Work**

This type of homework, which may be student initiated or set by the teacher, is very important as it is through this process that students gain understanding of their class work and reinforce what has already been gained in terms of knowledge, skills and understanding. Also, reinforcement of study techniques is achieved and confidence in mastering work is built.

- **New Learning**

This work may be student or teacher initiated. The objective is to acquire new knowledge, skills and understanding. It is obviously very important to augment classroom work.

7.3 SUGGESTED TIMES

YEARS 1-4

As the teacher thinks suitable for each child. The main purpose is for oral and silent reading. It is very important for children to develop a number of reading strategies. Silent reading can encourage a fast skim strategy for comprehension. Oral reading encourages skills in comprehension and in the flavour of words.

Children of all ages enjoy being read to and are greatly helped in developing their own reading skills by listening to a good reader. Homework in other areas will be given from time to time.

Year 5 approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ hour each night should be allocated

Year 6 approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 hour each night should be allocated

Year 7 approximately 1 hour each night should be allocated

Year 8 approximately about $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 hours daily; $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours per week

Year 9 approximately 2 hours daily; 10 hours per week

Year 10 approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours daily; 15 hours per week

Year 11 approximately 3 hours daily; 21 hours per week

Year 12 approximately 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours daily; 21 to 24 hours per week

More than this should not be necessary.

8. BREACH

Nil

Responsibility: Dean of Teaching and Learning

Review Date: March 2018

Next Review Date: December 2018