Policy Statement - Homework

Policy
Homework is integral to the Learning and Teaching Framework at Carmel College.

It refers to activities that students are asked to complete outside of lesson time. Homework should be designed so that it builds on students current skills learned in class and it reflects differentiated sensitivity for students’ needs.

Introduction
Learners bring with them a diversity of life experiences, religious, social and cultural backgrounds. Carmel College aims to offer a vibrant and relevant curriculum whereby teachers assist students to learn by providing creative and engaging opportunities for all. Homework is nestled within these opportunities of learning.

This policy is based on the principles and concepts of documents published by the Brisbane Catholic Education Office. These include Model of Pedagogy, Learning and Teaching Framework as well as Delivering Excellent Learning and Teaching 2014-2016 Strategy.

Rationale
This policy provides direction and assistance to formulate relevant practices for setting appropriate homework. It will guide the expectations of homework requirements for teachers, students and parents. Its intent is to provide a sense of equity as every learner is in some respect, like all others, like some others, like no other and we respond creatively, flexibly and with a futures orientation to ensure dignity and justice for all.

Students are challenged to become lifelong learners and active, engaged and ethical citizens. Homework that enhances students’ motivation is likely to contribute to them becoming active, engaged and ethical citizens.

Consequences
- Homework should be differentiated (where applicable), do-able and done independently
- As a means of catering to differentiation of students’ abilities, homework should be time-based rather than task-based
- Suggested time guidelines for homework between lessons are:-
  - Year 7 – approximately 10-15 minutes per subject
  - Year 8 – 15 minutes per subject
  - Years 9 & 10 – 15-20 minutes per subject
  - Years 11 & 12 – 25 minutes per subject
- Teachers should use suggested total guidelines and their professional judgement as to the quantity of set homework
Set homework should be explicit

The nature of homework can include:
- completing set tasks that build on skills learnt in the lesson
- research and preparation as well as completion of assignments

Students are encouraged to balance their time commitments to their homework, social/recreational and part-time employment

Students must be allowed time in the relevant lesson to enter homework into their student handbook

Teachers should authenticate homework by checking it following the lesson in which it was set

Teachers should scaffold assignment tasks in class with students so that their subject work at home, on same, has informed direction

Students should take ownership of their learner responsibilities to show evidence of attempting homework tasks

It would be an unusual circumstance for students to be expected to complete homework during designated holiday periods

Consequences for not doing homework will align with the college’s procedures.

References
- Education Queensland website.