

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

- Brisbane Catholic Education (2012) - Learning and Teaching Framework.
- Brisbane Catholic Education (2013) – Delivering Excellent Learning and Teaching 2014-2016 Strategy.
- Hattie, John (2009) – Visible Learning. Routledge, London and New York.
- Brisbane Catholic Education (2013) – Model of Pedagogy.
- Education Queensland website.