



KINGSWAY
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Cricos Provider #01855M

COLLEGE POLICY

HOMework POLICY

VERSION
1.1

Document and Version Management

Version Number	Approval Date	Approved by	Amendment Details	Review Date
1.0	February 2014	Principal	Created	February 2017
1.1	February 2017	Principal	Minor Formatting	February 2020

HOMEWORK POLICY

Kingsway Christian College acknowledges that homework is a valuable part of schooling and allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. It establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their life. It is therefore the College's policy that all students should engage in homework practice and the following guidelines are laid out so that parents, teachers and students can adopt a format which is most applicable to the current need.

Homework Guidelines

Introduction

The research examining time spent on homework, including large-scale international studies, shows wide variation in the amount of time spent on homework and the associated academic benefits. The number of out-of-school hours per day spent on homework is positively related to student academic achievement but reaches a point where too much appears to be detrimental.

Overall it seems that some homework is better than too much or none at all, however the time spent on homework needs to consider and be responsive to the student's age and development.

It is with this research in mind that Kingsway Christian College wishes to propose the following guidelines for parents, caregivers, students and teachers of our College community.

PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

Homework:

- should be considered a valuable part of schooling
- allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class
- provides training for students in planning and organising time
- develops a range of skills in identifying and using information sources
- establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline which will serve all students for the rest of their lives
- strengthens home-school links
- reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education
- provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children
- challenges and extends gifted and talented children

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Homework is most beneficial when:

- it reinforces and extends class work and consolidates basic skills and knowledge
- it is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the student's motivation
- parents or caregivers are involved in the formulation and implementation of the school's homework policy
- students take responsibility for their homework, supported by their parents or caregivers
- it is well coordinated and teacher expectations are well communicated
- it is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study

- teachers set suitable amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, stage of schooling and capabilities of students
- it takes into account students' home responsibilities and extracurricular activities such as clubs, sport and part-time employment
- it is marked promptly and accurately
- feedback and follow-up are provided regularly to students
- it develops and extends the core learning skills of inquiry and independent study

GUIDELINES FOR TYPES OF HOMEWORK

- The amount of time spent on homework will depend on the age of the student, their ability, home environment and extra-curricular activities including family and cultural obligations.
- It is important to consider the needs of students who have learning difficulties as it is unreasonable to expect them to spend large amounts of time on work which will be stressful and not lead to improvement.
- It is also important that teachers are aware of equity issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to technology should not be disadvantaged.
- Students of all ages should have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

The four main types of homework are:

Practice exercises which will provide students with opportunities to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- consolidation exercises – maths, tables
- practising for mastery – spelling
- revising information about a current topic
- reading for pleasure
- essay writing

Preparatory homework which will provide opportunities for students to gather background materials for a unit of study, making them better prepared for future lessons, including:

- background reading
- researching topics for a class unit of work
- collecting items

Extension assignments which will encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- writing
- making or designing an art work
- investigating
- researching
- information and retrieval skills such as using a home computer to find material on the Internet

Study/Preparation for Exams

For Senior Secondary Students, it is important that sufficient time be set aside for exam preparation and study. There should be no outstanding assignments that encroach upon exam week/s, nor should any research assignments be set during this examination period.

RECOMMENDED HOMEWORK PRACTICE

- Kindy Phonics activities weekly – non compulsory.
- Pre Primary Phonics activities weekly – non compulsory. Daily reading Semester 2 (10) mins)
- Year 1 Reading log, sight words/spelling words – daily (10 mins).
- Year 2 Reading log, sight words/spelling words – daily (10 mins).
Maths revision – weekly (10mins).
- Year 3 Reading log, sight words/spelling words – daily (10-15 mins).
1 assignment per semester, theme based, class time given.
- Years 4 Reading log, spelling words daily (10-15mins). Learning reflection Journal weekly. Alternate weekly revision assignment Maths/English (20mins).
- Year 5&6 (30 to 60 minutes per day) Students should be reading for 20 to 30 minutes a day, and a proportion of that should be with a parent depending on the child’s capabilities. A reading log should be signed every day to show that this has happened. Spelling should be learnt weekly alongside the Homework Tonight book and memory verses. This is the minimal homework set...on top of this there may be finishing off/correcting/practices for tests.
- Year 7 45 minutes per night 5 times a week
- Year 8 1 hour per night 5 times a week
- Year 9 1½ hours per night 5 times a week
- Year 10 2 hours per night 5 times a week
- Year 11 2½ hours per night 5 times a week
- Year 12 3 hours per night 5 times a week

Non completion of homework is communicated to parents in the **Primary** years through the use of student diaries. In **Years 7 – 12** non completion will be communicated to parents through diaries or emails.

It is expected that homework will be set on a regular basis in each subject, however it is important that coordination across learning areas will be done so that students are not overloaded with competing demands. If a student receives too much homework for any one period of time, it is essential that he/she negotiates with the teacher concerned so that equity and balance can be maintained.

EXPECTATIONS

Seminars and Study Days

During Upper Primary and Secondary years, the quality of homework will be enhanced by students receiving expert advice about homework and study skills through seminars and study days.

The Student Diary

The Kingsway Christian College Diary is intended to help with the organisation of assignments and homework tasks. Students will be given advice on how to use the Diary at the commencement of each year.

- each student is expected to carry the Diary to every lesson
- all homework and special events should be recorded
- the Student Diary is a guide for parents to check on the setting and completion of all homework and may also be used for communicating with a teacher

How can I help as a parent or caregiver?

- by taking an active interest in homework
- ensuring that there is time set aside for homework
- encouraging and supporting students to complete homework
- providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study
- encouraging children to read and take an active interest in current events
- assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
- communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of the homework and their children's approach to the homework
- alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected

How can I help as a teacher?

- explain to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework
- ensure that students and parents or caregivers are aware of the College's Homework Policy
- provide quality homework activities related to class work
- ensure that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- give sufficient time to students to complete their homework, taking into account as far as possible competing home obligations and extra-curricular activities and homework set by other teachers
- marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers

- alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework

How can I help as a student?

- by being aware of the importance of homework
- by being aware of the College's Homework Policy
- by completing homework with the given time frame
- alerting parents or caregivers to homework expectations
- seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- showing homework to parents or caregivers (not as important for senior students)
- ensuring homework is of a high standard
- organising time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines

Source: Department of Education and Training NSW