



HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale

Studies show that homework can impact positively on the retention and understanding of knowledge, improve students' study skills, improve their attitudes toward school, and demonstrate that learning can take place outside of formal schooling provided it is:

- Seen as relevant
- Completed diligently and accurately
- Monitored and supported through family involvement and;
- Where the time spent on homework is responsive to the student's age and development.

Beliefs and Principles:

- Parents can influence the homework environment, through creating appropriate conditions for learning and encouraging their children to complete homework tasks.
- Conditions set up in the home appropriate to individual homework styles can positively influence homework completion and academic performance.
- The school, its students and families can benefit from a collaborative effort to improve the effectiveness of homework.
- Family involvement in monitoring and supporting homework has positive effects on students.
- By identifying the individual homework style preferences, parents can assist in designing the home environment to improve students' attitudes towards homework and reduce homework related family conflict.
- Interactive homework approaches, where the child and parent complete an activity together, can assist in making homework more meaningful for students and their families.
- When too much homework is set, or when parents use different methods to those taught at school, homework could cause conflict between parents and children.
- Homework can place stress on family life by reducing family time available for leisure and family activities and putting pressure on families to take on undesired roles.
- The 'time on' homework needs to be responsive to the student's age and development.
- Parents can influence the homework environment, through creating appropriate conditions for learning and encouraging their children to complete homework tasks.
- Homework may be more effective when parents receive regular information from teachers on how they could help with their children's homework.

Guidelines for Action

At Corpus Christi School, there will be no formal homework set for students in Years Prep-2. However, it is expected that families engage in home activities that foster the development of Literacy/Numeracy skills such as:

- Reading activities-to with and by parents
- Alphabet/word games
- Number/counting games
- Puzzles

Suggested time: 10-15 minutes per night.

Occasionally children in Years Prep-2 may be asked to complete a shared activity with family members.

Formal homework tasks will be set for students in Years 3-6. These tasks, which may be negotiated with students and parents, are to be completed by the child and submitted by the due date. It is the responsibility of the child, with the assistance of parents and teachers to ensure homework is submitted when required. If, on occasion, homework is not submitted or submitted incomplete, parents/guardians will be notified and it is then the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure the matter is dealt with. Homework at this level is not an optional extra. It is compulsory and expected to be submitted on time.

Children who regularly choose not to complete homework may have various privileges withdrawn for a period of time.

Homework will not be given over the weekend or when families go on vacation.

Teachers at Corpus Christi will endeavour to support students in developing effective homework practices and demonstrate connectedness to the curriculum by:

- Designing homework that builds on students' current skills
- Promoting the use of homework planners/diaries across a period of time and teaching students self-monitoring techniques
- Enabling students with learning difficulties to engage in homework tasks and to take the time required to complete assigned work
- Providing homework help instructions, communicating homework expectations clearly and promoting parental involvement in their children's homework
- Designing homework to meet the needs of individual students while ensuring there is no stigma attached to receiving different homework between children by dealing with differentiation sensitively
- Designing homework tasks to 'spark' students' creative thinking, talents, community involvement and problem solving ability.

The recommended duration for homework activities at Corpus Christi is:

Years 3 and 4: up to 30 minutes per day (including 15 minutes reading)

Years 5 and 6: up to 45 minutes per day (including 20+ minutes reading)

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This Policy was last ratified in January 2012