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Primary Homework Policy

Rationale

At Mount Annan Christian College homework is defined as any task assigned by teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals. We believe that students will also participate in a range of activities and have diverse experiences outside of school hours that may enhance their learning, including sporting and cultural pursuits. Experiences and activities at home that help to create a rich learning environment for children are encouraged. It is imperative that all homework consider students' outside of school hours commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition, and home responsibilities. Children should be trained to prioritise their lives to give proper acknowledgment to the importance of home life, church, school and leisure time. While homework is important it should not impact in an unhelpful manner on the family. Mount Annan Christian College ensures any homework provided is sensitive to home life so that it does not become the major priority in the family during non-school hours.

Aims

Homework should be:

- appropriate for each student's age and ability
- relevant to each student's needs
- purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- clearly stated to students and parents

Policy Implementation

Teachers will:

- seek to support individual parents in their decisions regarding homework and will encourage children to do the same.
- inform parents/carers at the beginning of each school year about Homework requirements and procedures within their classroom on *Meet the Teacher Night*, through a written class information sheet at the beginning of the year and on their classroom blogs.
- encourage students to complete homework by providing a reward system in line with individual classroom management procedures.
- set a minimum standard of homework through a handout provided to students weekly or fortnightly. This document will also be placed on the Homework tab on each class blog, which can be accessed by students and their family at home.
- set optional additional tasks under the Homework tab on their class blog.
- at times set homework for specific individuals who may require additional support or extension.
- set homework that is meaningful, helpful, fair, as interesting as practicable and at times integrated with family life.
- be mindful of the Homework guidelines/timeframe (see table 1) when setting tasks.
- upon completion of homework, acknowledge student effort and learning with appropriate feedback.

- maintain records of students who are completing homework regularly to use in the reporting process.
- not punish any student who has not completed set homework.

Parents/Carers will:

- be responsible for directing what school work is completed at home.
- encourage their child to engage in homework tasks as much as possible within the structure of family life.
- alert their child’s teacher to any difficulties their child may be experiencing with set homework.

Table 1: Overview of Homework Guidelines

Stage	Time Guide	Typical Homework Activities that may be set by teachers
Early Stage 1	10-15 minutes per weeknight <i>(including 10minutes reading time)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics • Sight words • Writing • News preparation • Home reading • Mathletics
Stage 1	15-20 minutes per weeknight <i>(including 10-15 minutes reading time)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling • Sight words • Writing • News preparation • Home reading • PIP (<i>Personal Interest Projects</i>) • Mathletics
Stage 2	25-30 minutes per weeknight <i>(including 15 minutes reading time)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling • Writing • Home reading • PIP (<i>Personal Interest Projects</i>) and/or curriculum based projects • Mathletics • Times tables practice and/or other mathematics tasks
Stage 3	30-40 minutes per weeknight <i>(including 20 minutes reading time)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling • Writing • Home reading • PIP (<i>Personal Interest Projects</i>) and/or curriculum based projects • Mathletics • Times tables practice and/or other mathematics tasks

Document Control

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