JOHN PAUL COLLEGE
with Him is the fullness of life

Homework and Study Policy

Preamble

The John Paul College Mission Statement speaks of the commitment of all members of the community to recognising the essential dignity of the person and of the need for all to experience the 'fullness of life' promised in John 10.10.

Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to ensure all students, parents, carers and staff have shared expectations for homework and study.

There are many different views regarding the purpose of homework, its value and the amount that should be set. Current evidence and research indicates that:

- The quality of homework assigned is likely to be more important than the quantity
- Homework must be relevant to student needs and should not jeopardise the right for students to enjoy a balanced lifestyle
- The amount of homework and time spent on it should according to year level.
- Effort spent on homework is a stronger correlate of academic achievement than time spent on homework
- Homework is an important part of reinforcing the concepts that are introduced in class
- Homework is most effective when it is an integral part of learning, complementing classroom learning rather than an add-on
- Homework benefits students by fostering good study habits and provides students the opportunity to be responsible for their own learning

Scope

This policy applies to students in all year levels, parents, carers and teachers.

Objectives

- To consolidate and reinforce learning undertaken in class by providing students with opportunities to practise, review and apply key knowledge and skills.
- To prepare students for future learning through appropriate pre-learning or front-loading activities that build background knowledge and enable students to engage more effectively with new concepts in class.
- To encourage students to develop an attitude of responsibility for their learning and develop the habits of independent learning and individual research
- To assist students to develop a personalised approach to consolidate and extend their knowledge and skills
- To develop organisational and time management skills in students that will grow into sound homework patterns to ensure a successful use in their senior schooling
- To improve each student's academic achievement
- To help students develop a balanced and consistent approach to homework and study which supports their health and wellbeing

The Relationship between Homework and Study

Homework is the completion of set work that usually relates directly to the work covered in class. This may take the form of completing unfinished class work, related worksheets and assignments.

Study is an integral part of homework and generally refers to the process of revising work covered over a period of time in order to consolidate learning. It can also be a way of encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively.

Homework Expectations

Homework should:

- be appropriate to the student's skill level and relevant to the student's needs
- be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- be interesting, challenging and when appropriate open-ended
- complement a balanced lifestyle (spiritual, academic, familial, cultural, recreational and social)

Homework Activities

May include:

- completing unfinished classwork
- reading texts and novels
- preparing for a new topic
- extension of class work
- related worksheets to enhance skills
- completion of projects and assignments
- accessing multimedia for flipped learning
- practising a musical instrument or drama performance
- practising a language being studied
- writing essays and other creative tasks

Study Activities

May include:

- collaborating with other students
- revising to consolidate learning
- preparing for an assessment
- completing practice questions and past examinations
- utilising appropriate online resources
- reading for pleasure, inspiration, extension and curiosity
- keeping up-to-date with current affairs

Shared Expectations and Responsibilities

Homework is a shared responsibility between the College, teachers, students and parents/carers. It is important that everyone understands their role and responsibilities.

The College will support students by:

- ensuring that all members of the College community are aware of the Homework and Study Policy
- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children
- advising students and parents/carers of homework and study expectations at the beginning of the school year
- monitoring the type and volume of homework and study set for completion over the holidays, noting expectations are heightened in senior school
- providing students with learning spaces and resources to aid in organising their homework and study

The Teachers can support students by:

- setting work that is appropriate for out of class or home study tasks
- ensuring tasks are reasonable and manageable within the set timeframe
- modifying and differentiating tasks appropriate to the student's skill level and relevant to the student's needs
- encouraging students to engage with problem solving, logical thinking and creativity
- making the requirements clear - the due date is known, and work is returned in a timely manner with feedback given where appropriate
- assisting students when difficulties arise
- consulting with students on their return from absences about their learning

The Student is expected to take responsibility for their own learning by:

- recording the details of their homework, study and assessment tasks
- utilizing the LMS to plan for assessment tasks and check for any missed learning activities
- completing set tasks by the due date
- following up on feedback.
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home and sporting commitments, recreational and other activities and part time work if applicable
- in cases of absence, seek out and hand in the homework as soon as they return or negotiate an alternate time with the teacher

The Parents / Carers can help students by:

- developing a positive approach to homework and study
- encouraging students to take increasing responsibility for their own learning
- assisting their child to develop organisational strategies
- sourcing an appropriate place and required resources for regular homework and study away from all distractions
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework, studying and lifestyle activities
- talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- contacting the relevant teacher and Pastoral Care teacher to discuss any problems their child may be having with the homework

Homework Guidelines Relating to Time

At certain times during the year study and completion of work requirements and assessment tasks may take extra time. Some tasks may be assigned to be completed during weekends and on school holidays. The following times are approximate guidelines.

Years 7 to 10

Year Level	Per School Day	Per Week
7	45 minutes	4 hours
8	60 minutes	5 hours
9	75 minutes	6 hours
10	90 minutes	7 ½ hours

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

It is an expectation of the College that in addition to scheduled class time, students spend at least 2½ to 3 hours per week of self-directed learning for each VCE unit. This expectation extends to school term breaks.

Students studying VCE	2 to 2 ½ per unit per week

This expectation is in keeping with Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) guidelines that students need to allocate 50 hours of self-directed learning for each VCE unit outside of scheduled lessons.

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

It is an expectation of the College and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority that each VCAL unit is 100 nominal hours in length, and each unit that is successfully completed contributes one credit towards the VCAL at the appropriate award level. The nominal hours include both scheduled and unscheduled time and may vary when considering the specific needs of each student. VCAL students are expected to complete homework and study as required.

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