
Homework Policy

Marrara Christian College is a learning community where parents and staff partner together. Students are nurtured through a loving, biblically-based school curriculum and structure to build their faith, character and desire to serve.

PREAMBLE

Homework is accepted as a normal part of contemporary school life. Quality homework may be beneficial in teaching independent study skills and in preparation for further study. It can increase accountability as a learner and give a sense of personal responsibility, which leads to higher achievement.

Homework should not be a source of tension between parents and child, nor should it be the only time of the day when parents and children interact. This may give the child the impression that their parents are only interested in the child's academic achievement and not the wider breadth of who they are.

POLICY

School work done at home happens within an environment of competing priorities. Apart from study, a well-rounded week may include:

- 'Down' time (chill-out/relax/rest)
- After school 'play'
- Recreational reading
- Sport
- Music lessons and practice (or dance, drama, art, sport)
- Socialising with friends and family
- Church and Youth Group involvement
- House/family chores
- Part-time job

School work done at home is categorised into two distinct areas – *Homework* and *Assignments*. They differ in their intent, benefit, expectations and structure.

The College will assume that all students will do all the set homework and assignments.

Should a family decide that they do not wish their child to be required to do any homework, they should write to the appropriate Head of School regarding this.



Assignments

- are set for **students** to complete
- may require the use of emerging skills
- may include the reading of set texts
- have expectations and assessment criteria clearly set out
- are scaffolded, and require class time as well as home time to be completed
- are a compulsory part of the formal assessment and reporting regime
- are posted on the College online learning sites

Assignments are mandatory for all students. Assignments may be modified for students according to their needs.

Homework

- gives extra practice in known skills
- may enable access to information not readily available at school
- is given regularly
- gives parents a glimpse of school work

The College recommends the following hours per week are dedicated to homework/assignments.

School	Indicative Homework Time Each Week	
Primary	40 mins (Transition) to 1.5 hour (Year 3) to 2.5 hours (Year 6)	including nightly reading, spelling and Maths
Middle	3 hours (Year 7) to 5 hours (Year 9)	plus recreational reading 20 minutes 3 nights a week
Senior	6 hours (Year 10) to 11 hours (Year 12) plus four hours study time at College	plus recreational reading 20 minutes 4 nights a week

If homework has not been completed, an explanatory note from the parents/carers should be submitted to the teacher.

It is expected that students will hand in assignments, as assignments are considered integral to the formal learning, assessment and reporting process.

A special note about part-time jobs:

Whilst a student's major focus needs to be upon their schooling, a part-time job can enrich their whole-of-life development. Achieving a right balance is important so that achievement in the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training is not hindered. The College considers that, generally, *up to* 10 hours/week engaged in part-time employment for a Year 11 or 12 student *may* be of benefit to the student's development and not detrimental to study.

Such students become more able to identify appropriate vocational pathways, develop and practice an appropriate work ethic and learn skills in communication, budgeting and dealing with people.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Refer to relevant Section Assessment and Assignment Procedures.

SCOPE

The policy applies to the parents, staff and students of Marrara Christian College community.

Review

- Date reviewed June 2017
- Council approval June 2017