

PRIMARY HOME LEARNING POLICY

What you need to know

- At Mount Annan Christian College, we have moved away from the phrase 'homework'. We believe that home learning instils a mindset of lifelong learning and should not be seen as work, rather an opportunity to engage in additional learning or skills practice.
- Home Learning is defined as any task assigned by teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals.
- The College prioritises student wellbeing and learning so whilst home learning, as set by class teachers, is important, it should not impact in an unhelpful manner on the family.

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Vision

To provide a Christ-centred learning environment that empowers each individual to enjoy a life of purpose.

Purpose

This policy seeks to establish the procedures for Home Learning in the Primary years and recognise the need to balance home learning with other pursuits outside of school hours. The policy sets out guidelines and activities that are age and stage appropriate for students. It also outlines the roles of teachers and parent/carer(s) in facilitating home learning in a mutually beneficial manner to meet the needs of students and reinforces parental choice in home learning completion.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- encourage lifelong learning by engaging students in additional learning and skills practice;
- assist students in meeting their learning goals;
- recognise that experiences and activities at home help to create a rich learning environment for children;
- consider the commitments of students outside of school hours and assist them to prioritise and balance home life, Church, school, and leisure time; and

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- show sensitivity toward the importance of family time and the impact of home learning.

Scope

This policy applies to all enrolled students in the Primary years of the College. It is a useful point of reference for all parent/carer(s) and staff to ensure consistency with Home Learning guidelines, expectations, and procedures.

Home Learning and Wellbeing

Ethos

At Mount Annan Christian College, we have moved away from the phrase homework. We believe that home learning instils a mindset of lifelong learning and should not be seen as work, rather an opportunity to engage in additional learning or skills practice.

Definition

Home Learning is defined as any task assigned by teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals.

Achieving a Balance

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 home learning 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 properly acknowledge the importance of home life, Church, school and leisure time. Whilst home learning, as set by class teachers, is important, it should not impact in an unhelpful manner on the family.

Mount Annan Christian College ensures any home learning provided is sensitive to home life so that it does not become the major priority in the family during non-school hours.

We recognise the importance of Years 5 and 6 being a transition to Secondary schooling, where home learning (Homework) becomes an integral part of study. For this reason, Years 5 and 6 Home Learning is considered compulsory for these year grades. Should this be of concern to any family we encourage them to speak to their child's teacher.

Policy Implementation

The Teacher's Role in Home Learning

Teachers will:

- seek to support individual parents in their decisions regarding school set home learning tasks and will encourage children to do the same;
- inform parents/carers at the beginning of each school year about home learning requirements and procedures;

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- within their classroom at Meet the Teacher Night, through a written class information sheet at the beginning of the year and through Seesaw and/or Google Classroom;
- encourage students to complete home learning by providing a reward system in line with individual classroom management procedures;
- set a minimum standard of home learning through a Seesaw post provided to students weekly or fortnightly. This document will also be placed on Google Classroom for Years 5 and 6, which can be accessed by students and their families at home;
- set optional additional tasks under the home learning section of Google Classroom;
- at times set home learning for specific individuals who may require additional support or extension;
- set home learning that is meaningful, helpful, fair, as enjoyable as practicable and at times integrated with family life;
- be mindful of the home learning guidelines/timeframe (see table below) when setting tasks;
- upon completion of home learning, acknowledge student effort and learning with appropriate feedback;
- not punish any student who has not completed set home learning; and
- consult with parents of students in Years 5 and 6 who are not regularly completing homework.

The Parent/Carer's Role in Home Learning

Parent/Carer(s) will:

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

Overview of Home Learning Guidelines

STAGE	TIME GUIDE	TYPICAL HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES THAT MAY BE SET BY TEACHERS
Early Stage 1 (Kindy)	10-15 minutes per weeknight (including 10 minutes reading time)	• GEM Chat Discussion • Phonics • Sight words • Writing • News preparation • Home reading • Online Tasks: Seesaw, Maths Seeds, Reading Eggs, Fast

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		Phonics
Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)	15-20 minutes per weeknight (including 10-15 minutes of reading time)	- GEM Chat Discussion - High Frequency Words & Heart Words - Home reading - Number of the Day - Home Learning Grid (various tasks) - Online Tasks: Seesaw, Maths Seeds, Reading Eggs, Fast Phonics
Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)	25-30 minutes per weeknight (including 15 minutes of reading time)	- GEM Chat Discussion - Writing - Home reading - PIP (Personal Interest Projects) and/or curriculum based projects - Mathletics - Multiplication facts practice and/or other Mathematics tasks
Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6)	30-40 minutes per weeknight (including 20 minutes of reading time)	- GEM Chat Discussion - Writing - Home reading - Mathletics - Multiplication facts practice and/or other - Mathematics tasks - Set Assignment Tasks

Related Policies and Procedures

- Primary Student Management Policy
- Student Welfare Pastoral Care Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct
- Grievance Policy
- All other relevant College policies and procedures
- Statement of Faith