



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Wandal Homework

Approved: August 2019 | For Review [2024]

Position Paper

Definition:

“Homework” is defined as any task assigned by school leaders intended for students to carry out during non-school hours.

Research says...

The effect size at Primary Age is $d = 0.15$ (for Secondary students it is $d = 0.64$) (Hattie). Most researchers conclude that for primary students, there is no evidence that homework lifts academic performance. There is only a small correlation between homework and achievement in middle school (Cooper, 1989; Walker, 2011). Only in the senior years of high school does homework clearly raise academic performance.” (Public School NSW (2012c)

The more specific and precise the task is, the more likely it is to make an impact for all learners. (Hattie)

Teacher monitoring and involvement is key (Hattie)

Homework should be purposeful and relevant to student needs and should not jeopardise the right of children to enjoy a balanced lifestyle (Dixon, 2017)

Effort spent on homework is a stronger correlate of academic achievement than time spent on homework (Canadian Council on Learning, 2009).

Students need to first learn skills in class so that the teacher can ensure that they are practising and internalising the skills correctly, before working independently at home (Marzano et.al., 2001)

Children differ in readiness and developmental level. For homework this means differentiating tasks to meet individual student needs. (Vatterott, 2009) (Bryan and Burstein, 2004).

For maximum success and minimum frustration...time-based homework (with students instructed to do as much as they can in a specified time period). (Vatterott, 2009).

Students differ in their access to resources and technology.

Researchers have evidence for the positive effects of parent engagement on children, families, and school when both schools and parents continuously support and encourage the children's learning and development (Eccles & Harold, 1993).

Our Beliefs

Homework should ...

- Be set by teachers with input (at teacher's discretion) from students and parents
- Be purposeful and relevant to student needs
- Emphasise quality not quantity - a model of time-based homework is encouraged (e.g. do what you can in 20 minutes) to individualise tasks
- Be flexible and accessible whilst remaining relevant and instructive
- Be able to be completed, at least in part, independently by students
- Be monitored by teachers and timely feedback given

Homework should not be...

- Homework for homework's sake
- Rigid or one size fits all
- Confusing to parents; support will be provided to parents via communication by teachers and parent information sessions
- Onerous, arduous or stress-inducing for the children or their families

Reference List

Bryan and Burstein. *Theory Into Practice*, v43 n3 p213-219 Aug 2004

Canadian Council on Learning. (2009). A systematic review of literature examining the impact of homework on academic achievement. Retrieved January 12, 2012, from http://www.ccl-cca.ca/pdfs/SystematicReviews/SystematicReview_HomeworkApril27-2009.pdf

Cooper, H. (1989). Synthesis of Research in Homework, *Educational Leadership*, 47, 3, 85-91.

Dixon, N., Parliamentary Library. (2007). Homework for the 21st century. Brisbane: Research Publications and Resources Section Queensland Parliamentary Library.

Eccles, J & Harold, R. (1993) Parent-School Involvement during the Early Adolescent Years. *Teachers College Record*, v94 n3 p568-87 Spr 1993

Hattie, J. (2009). *Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement*. London & New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

Marzano, R. J., Pickering, D. J., & Pollock, J. E. (2001). *Classroom instruction that works: Research-based strategies for increasing student achievement*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

NSW Department of Education and Communities, (2012c). *Homework Policy Guidelines*. Sydney, NSW: Neals.

Vatterott, C. (2009). *Rethinking Homework: Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs*. Alexandria, Virginia, ASCD Publishing

Walker, R. (2011, September 24). Should children do traditional homework? *The Sydney Morning Herald*. Retrieved January 12, 2012, from <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/the-question/should-children-do-traditional-homework-20110923-1kpaj.html#ixzz1jHvlqLNj>

St Joseph's Wandal School Support Paper