



St Maroun's College



Homework Policy K-12



St Maroun's College policies have a commitment to Maronite Catholic ethos and values and should be read in conjunction with other policies and procedures and with relevant legislation.

St Maroun's College Anti-Bullying Policy
St Maroun's College Attendance Policy
St Maroun's Bus Travel Policy
St Maroun's College Child Protection Policy
St Maroun's College Code of Conduct
St Maroun's Community Consultation Policy
St Maroun's Complaints and Grievance Policy
St Maroun's Consultation Policy
St Maroun's Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy
St Maroun's Duty of Care Policy
St Maroun's College Excursion Policy
St Maroun's College Facilities Policy
St Maroun's College First Aid and Medication Policy
St Maroun's Homework Policy
St Maroun's College Learning Support Policy
St Maroun's Playground Supervision Policy
St Maroun's Sports Handbook Policy
St Maroun's College Risk Management Policy
St Maroun's Suspension and Expulsion Policy
St Maroun's Student Development Policy
St Maroun's College Work and Safety Policy

POLICY REVIEW

These policies will be reviewed not less frequently than once every three years.

Homework Policy K-12

Introduction and Purpose

Homework is defined as any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours designed to meet specific learning goals. Homework is educationally beneficial and it helps to bridge the gap between home and school. It should be seen by all stakeholders as an essential ingredient of the development of a healthy home-school partnership specifically supporting student learning.

Recent research confirms that homework:

- Improves students time management
- Demonstrates that learning takes place outside the classroom
- Fosters a sense of personal responsibility and self discipline

It also asserts that:

- Quality of homework is more important than the quantity
- Homework must be purposeful and relevant
- Effort spent on homework is a stronger correlate of academic achievement than time spent on homework

Principles Guiding the Setting of Homework Activities

Homework should be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- engaging, challenging and, where appropriate, open ended
- planned, purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided in a timely fashion.

Homework activities that meet these requirements include:

Practice exercises which provide students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- completing consolidation exercises
- practising for mastery
- practising words or phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English
- reading for pleasure
- writing essays and other creative tasks
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising physical education skills or training for GPS competition
- writing up practical work or process diaries

Preparatory homework which provide opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:

- reading background material for History
- reading English texts for class discussion
- researching topics for class work
- collecting newspaper articles
- revising information about a current topic.

Extension assignments which encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as

- writing something eg. a book review
- making or designing something eg. an art work
- completing Science investigation exercises
- researching local news
- finding material on the Internet - information and retrieval skills
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper.
- multimedia projects
- interdisciplinary explorations based on an important social/ historical/moral theme

Frequency and Communication of Homework

At St Maroun's College all students can anticipate that homework will be given each day of the week.

Students in Yrs 1-12 have College diaries where students are expected to write up their homework tasks. Parents and teachers are also encouraged to use the Diary as the preferred means of communicating about set home activities.

The College does of course employ more formal mechanisms to advise students of homework/Assessment tasks via Assessment schedules which can also be found on the College website.

Responsibilities and Expectations

The role of **the teacher** is to:

- ensure that homework is related to the work being done in the classroom
- set tasks that allow for the engagement of all ability levels and preferred student learning styles
- give students sufficient time for the completion of tasks
- ensure students are aware of what is expected of them and how their work will be assessed
- communicate with parents/caregivers through the diary about areas of concern related to homework
- check homework promptly and provide appropriate and timely feedback to students
- maintain student progress records.

The task of **the student** is to:

- utilise their diary to record homework requirements
- complete homework within the given timeframe
- organise their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to producing quality homework
- seek assistance from their teacher and/or parent/caregiver when difficulties arise.

Parents/caregivers can help by:

- demonstrating a positive attitude towards learning
- providing a suitable place for students to complete their homework
- supporting their child in completing homework
- assisting teachers to monitor homework via the College diary
- communicating with teachers about any concerns with homework or their child's approach to homework
- alerting the College of any circumstances that may impact on the student's ability to complete a task

Policy Review

Last Reviewed: December 2013

Approved By: College Staff

Renewal Date: December 2014