



Lake Joondalup Baptist College

Homework Policy PK-12

Policy 131

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Lake Joondalup Baptist College is committed to the National Child Safe Organisation Principles, and to providing a child-safe environment which safeguards all students and promotes practices which provide for the safety, wellbeing and welfare of our children and young people. Lake Joondalup Baptist College expects all College community members including Board members, staff, volunteers, students, visitors and contractors to share this commitment.

Homework Policy

Purpose

The College Purpose is to nurture young people to discover and confidently express their unique God-given gifts in service of their community. This Homework Policy is intended to inform parents, teachers and students of the expectations, responsibilities, and purpose of homework.

Policy statement

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The College considers homework a valuable part of schooling. Research shows time spent on homework is positively related to student academic achievement and allows for an opportunity to practice and refine skills. Too much homework can have a negative impact on learning therefore the time spent on homework should consider, and be responsive to, the student's age and development.

Purpose of homework

Homework:

- Can be used formatively to show gaps in understanding of concepts
- Allows for practice, extension and consolidation of work done in class
- Provides training for students in planning and management of time
- Develops a range of skills in identifying and using sources of information
- Establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline
- Strengthens the link between home and school
- Reaffirms the role of parents as partners in education
- Provides parents with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children
- Challenges and extends children

General principles

Homework is most beneficial when:

- It reinforces and extends class work
- It consolidates basic skills and knowledge
- It is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on student motivation
- Parents are involved in the formulation and implementation of the school's homework policy
- Students take responsibility for their homework, supported by their parents
- Teacher expectations of students are well communicated
- It is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study
- Teachers set suitable amounts of homework
- It is varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, stage of schooling and capabilities of students
- It accounts for students' home responsibilities, extra-curricular activities and part-time employment
- Follow up and feedback are provided promptly to students
- It develops and extends the core learning skills of inquiry and independent study

Types of homework

The amount of time spent on homework will depend on the age of the student, their ability, home environment and extra-curricular activities including family and cultural obligations.

It is important to consider the needs of students who have learning difficulties as it is unreasonable to expect a student to spend extended amounts of time on work which will be stressful and not lead to improvement.

It is important that teachers are aware of equity issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to technology should not be disadvantaged.

The four main types of homework are:

1. Practise exercises which will provide students with opportunities to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:
 - Practicing for mastery – spelling, mathematical equations
 - Revising information about a current topic
 - Consolidation exercises – Mathematics, multiplication facts
 - Reading for pleasure
 - Essay writing
2. Preparatory homework which will provide opportunities for students to gather background materials for a unit of study, making them better prepared for future lessons, including:
 - Background reading or pre-reading (flipped classroom)
 - Researching topics for a class unit of work
 - Collecting items
3. Extension assignments which will encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:
 - Writing
 - Making or designing an artwork
 - Investigating
 - Researching
 - Information and retrieval skills
4. Preparation for in class assessments

For Secondary students, it is important that sufficient time be set aside for in class assessment preparation and study. As part of regular homework, all students should be consistently reviewing new learning from each of their subjects. There should be no outstanding assignments that encroach upon Year 11 and/or 12 study or exam week/s, nor should any research assignments be set during this examination period.

College and home partnership

1. How can I help as a parent?
 - By taking an active interest in homework
 - Ensuring that there is time set aside for homework
 - Encouraging and supporting children to complete homework
 - Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study
 - Encouraging children to read and take an active interest in current events
 - Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
 - Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of the homework and their children's approach to the homework
 - Alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected
2. How can I help as a teacher?
 - Explain to students and their parents the purpose and benefits of homework
 - Ensuring that students and parents are aware of the College's Homework Policy
 - Providing quality homework activities related to class work
 - Ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
 - Giving sufficient time to students to complete their homework, accounting, as far as possible, for Competing home obligations, extra-curricular activities and homework set by other teachers

Marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers
Alerting parents to any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework
Providing clear details that include instructions with due dates clearly defined on the Learning Platform

3. How can I help as a student?

By being aware of the importance of homework
By being aware of the College's Homework Policy
By checking the College Planner/Learning System on a daily basis
Ensuring that homework information is recorded in the College Planner/Learning System
Completing homework within the given time frame
Recording the time spent on homework
Alerting parents of homework expectations
Seeking assistance from teachers and parents when difficulties arise, including the amount of time spent on homework
Showing and/or discussing homework and homework issues to parents
Ensuring homework is of a high standard
Organising time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy a parent includes legal guardians, step-parents, relatives, extended family, carers, people who exercise parental responsibility for students and any others while involved in activities or communication related to the College.

Related Policies

15	Lower Secondary Assessment Policy
42	Learning Technologies
54	Curriculum Review, Planning and Programing Policy
58	EO, Discrimination and Harassment
60	Academic Review – Student Policy
93	Disability Discrimination Policy
102	Contact with Parents on Student Progress Policy
128	Senior Secondary Assessment Policy
149	Student Inclusion Policy

Appendix 1 Primary recommended homework practice

Primary homework is set according to the needs of the students within the year group. Tasks are often open ended to provide opportunities for students to be challenged and extended. Homework is set by classroom teachers and may differ slightly within a class or cohort. This is to provide the best opportunities for teachers to respond to the learning needs of the students within their classrooms.

When a task is not understood or the demands of the family routine prevent homework from being completed within the allocated timeframe, parents are asked to email the classroom teacher. The classroom teacher works with the parents to support their child.

Pre Kindergarten to Pre Primary

Formal homework is not set for these early years. All activities at home or play can assist children to develop essential knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. These are often done in the context of family activities including:

- Shopping
- Preparation of food
- Listening to stories, learning songs and nursery rhymes
- Discussion about what is happening at school
- Reading
- Library borrowing
- Family outings
- Collecting items

Kindergarten students take home a Library Backpack each fortnight. Contained within the backpack are several texts for shared reading, a prompt card for supporting families in engaging students in rich conversations around the text, a puppet and an educational game.

Pre Primary students take home a book each week from the Shared Reading program. Prompt cards are supplied to support families in engaging students in rich conversation around the text.

News Telling – Students are rostered for regular class news telling. Teachers may request students bring items from home to assist at this time.

Year 1 and 2 Homework

Year 1 and 2 students will take home a book regularly from the Home Reading program during the year. Parents/guardians may be asked to check and sign the Reading logs. At all times, parents/guardians are encouraged to read to their children of all ages, and to facilitate the child's reading for pleasure.

Year 1 and 2 students also take home a list of high-frequency and spelling words to practise the phonic concepts being taught that week. Tasks are assigned to each student on Matific.

Year 3 and 4 Homework

Homework aims to provide students with opportunities to consolidate the skills and concepts they have learned at school. It allows for positive communications to take place between home and school. It may establish good routines, which create good learning habits for our students as they move through the College. Spelling, reading and Matific tasks are assigned on a regular basis.

Year 5 and 6 Homework

Year 5 and 6 students will use their Student Diary to record their homework, record finishing-off work and manage assignments and project work. Teachers aim to build on the students own personal organisation skills and independence essential for later learning.

Time allocations for homework will vary throughout the term and year depending on the curriculum being taught at that time.

The Student Planner - Primary students in Years 4 to 6 have Student Planners. The Student Planner is intended to help with the organisation of assignments and homework tasks. Students will be given advice on how to use the Student Planner at the commencement of each year.

Homework: Guidelines for PK-6 for week days are:

Pre Kindergarten – Topical

Kindergarten – Literacy Backpack and Library Backpack

Pre Primary- Shared Reading Program

Year 1: 15 minutes

Year 2: 15 minutes

Year 3: 20 minutes

Year 4: Up to 30 minutes

Year 5: Up to 30 minutes

Year 6: Up to 40 minutes

Appendix 2 Secondary Homework

Years 7 - 10 (45 – 120 minutes per day):

From Years 7 to 10, homework should develop students' good habits of reviewing work undertaken in class. It is expected that homework will be set on a regular basis in each subject; however, it is important that coordination across learning areas is done so that students are not overloaded with competing demands. If a student receives too much homework for any one period of time, it is essential that he/she negotiates with the teacher concerned so that equity and balance can be maintained.

Year 11 and 12 (Approximately 15 Hours per week, Course selection dependent):

Years 11 and 12 should have developed a study program alongside a regular homework program that will be dependent upon their course selection. Students should have a combination of:
Homework- tasks set by the teacher to be done outside of class time.

Assignments/Assessments-specific projects that the teachers set to be completed by a certain due date.

Study-direct act of learning information, processes or skills.

During Secondary years, the quality of homework will be enhanced by students receiving expert advice about homework from their teachers, study days as well as assessment free days.

The Student Planner – Secondary students in Years 7-12

The LJBC Student Planner is intended to help with the organisation of assignments and homework tasks. Students will be given advice on how to use the Student Planner by their classroom teacher.

Each student is expected to carry the Student Planner to every lesson.

All homework and special events should be recorded.

Learning Platform

All Students and Parents in the Secondary College may access homework through the College Online Learning Platform. Homework is maintained on the Learning Platform throughout the year and is supported by any relevant electronic study materials set for the day.