



Mater Dei Catholic College

Live God's Message

HOMEWORK GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

Purpose:

To support the learning of Mater Dei students with an approach to homework that is clear and consistent in expectations and purpose.

Relevant to:

All staff, students and parents

Responsible Officer(s):

College Leadership Team, Assistant Principal, KLA Leaders, Classroom Teachers

Date of Introduction:

February 2025

Date of Review:

February 2026

Modification History:

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Related Documents:

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Mater Dei Catholic College

Homework Guidelines and Procedure

Rationale

When it is constructive and consistent, homework can improve students' learning. Effective homework builds good habits of self-regulation and can improve motivation and self-belief in students. Homework is also important because it aligns with contemporary understanding of how we learn (for example, spaced repetition of concepts, retrieval practice, interleaving, generative learning, schema-building etc).

Principles from which homework is delivered at Mater Dei Catholic College:

- All homework should be able to be completed by students independently. Homework should relate to knowledge and skills taught in class for which most students have demonstrated a reasonable degree of proficiency
- Homework should be set and checked for each course regularly. Consistency of practice will take precedence over the volume of work set
- A reasonable expectation would be that students could complete their homework in the following times:
 - Years 7 and 8: One hour per weeknight
 - Years 9 and 10: One and a half hours per weeknight
 - Year 11: Between two and two-and-a-half hours per weeknight (approx. 12 hours per week)
 - Year 12: Three hours per weeknight (approx. fifteen hours per week)
- Necessary adjustments should be made for students with personalised plans
- Necessary adjustments may be made for students at the beginning of Year 7, especially where students have not completed homework in primary school

Consequences for students who fail to complete homework:

- Students are expected to complete homework. Any not completing homework and deemed by their teacher to be without an acceptable explanation will be asked to meet in Resource Centre 2 on Thursday during the first half of lunch to discuss, problem-solve or complete their homework.

Advice for students who find it difficult to complete their homework:

Where students find it difficult to complete homework, they should:

- Consult their class teacher (especially about difficulties with the work set)
- Seek help from their Homegroup teacher or House Leader (especially about using their diary or helping to manage their time)
- Discuss with the Assistant Principal and/or Leader of Curriculum at the Thursday lunch time catch-up sessions in Resource Centre 2

Advice for Parents:

Parents are not expected to help students with the content of their homework. However, students may need support with planning their time and focusing their attention when outside the classroom. Parents may:

- Help students to find a space to complete homework that is free of distraction
- Help students to plan time when homework will be completed across the week (no homework should be assigned that is due the following day)
- Ask students what they intend to achieve in the allotted time that evening
- At the completion of the homework, ask students to show them what they achieved
- Ask students what they need to do next to follow up their learning (they may need to ask questions, seek help, plan further revision etc)
- Check students' diaries and encourage them to use this to plan ahead for revision (students must bring their diary to each class)
- Liaise with the class teacher, Homegroup teacher, KLA Leader or House Leader if a student is struggling or adjustments may be required

Advice for Classroom Teachers at Mater Dei Catholic College when setting homework at Mater Dei:

Classroom teachers are encouraged to:

- Plan the purpose of the homework alongside the teaching process and explain to students why the homework is sequenced the way it is
- Make time in class to address misconceptions from homework (this could be in Daily Review) and adjust future teaching, as they would with formative assessment
- Model how to deal with problems that arise when completing homework (E.g. what to do when distractions arise, what to do if you don't understand a problem etc)
- Set homework that requires devoted attention and hard thinking. These lead to learning
- Focus on building schemata. Have students organise and integrate new knowledge with prior knowledge. Have students complete tasks that give the knowledge meaning
- Set homework that is regular and spaced

- Avoid only focusing on the current unit. Interleave so students regularly revise information they may have forgotten and likely need to think hard to retrieve

Sources of information about Homework:

Bjork., E.L. & Bjork, R.A. (2009) 'Making Things Hard on Yourself, but in a Good Way: Creating Desirable Difficulties to Enhance Learning.'

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Hattie, J., (2011) *Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximising Impact on Learning*. Taylor and Francis Ltd.

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McCrea, P. (2017) *Memorable Teaching: Leveraging Memory to Build Deep and Durable Learning in the Classroom*, CreateSpace.

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