



HOMEWORK – PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

1: PREAMBLE

Homework is accepted as a normal part of contemporary school life. Whilst research findings are unclear, it appears that quality homework may be beneficial in teaching independent study and in preparation for further study. It can increase accountability as a learner and give a sense of personal responsibility, which leads to higher achievement.

Homework should not be a source of tension between parents and child. Nor should it be the only time of the day when parents and children interact. This may give the child the impression that their parents are only interested in the child's academic achievement and not the wider breadth of who they are.

2: POLICY

School work done at home happens within an environment of competing priorities. Apart from study, a well rounded week may include:

- 'Down' time (chill-out/relax/rest)
- After school 'play'
- Recreational reading
- Sport
- Music lessons and practice (or dance, drama, art, etc.)
- Socialising with friends and family
- Church and Youth Group involvement
- House/family chores
- Part-time job

School work done at home is categorised into two distinct areas. They differ in their intent, benefit, expectations and structure.

The College will assume that all students will do all the set homework and assignments.

Should a family decide that they do not wish their child to be required to do any homework, discussions with Head of School Support is essential.

Assignments are mandatory for all students but may be modified for students with particular needs.

3: ASSIGNMENTS

- are set for students to complete
- may require the use of emerging skills
- include the reading of set texts
- have expectations and assessment criteria clearly set out
- are scaffolded, and require class time as well as home time to be completed
- are a compulsory part of the formal assessment and reporting regime
- give parents a chance to evaluate their child's competence

4: HOMEWORK

- gives extra practice in known skills
- sometimes enables access to information not readily available at school
- is given regularly and marked promptly if handed in on time
- is recorded in each student's College Diary (Year 5 and up)
- gives parents a glimpse of school work

Work that should have been completed in normal class time but not finished due to lack of attention is not considered 'Homework'. Such work should be completed that same day at home.

A healthy balance for school-work done at home is an important choice for a family to make. NCC respects the right of parents to set priorities for their children. As each week's demands are met, the College encourages parents to prioritise assignments above homework.

NCC strongly recommends the following hours per week are not exceeded on a regular basis. Primary and Middle School students should aim to do school work at home on Monday to Thursday giving students a school free weekend but this may vary depending on the family's commitments. We urge students to get in the habit of doing some homework every night, to form good study habits.

SCHOOL	INDICATIVE HOMEWORK TIME EACH WEEK	
PRIMARY SCHOOL (EACH WEEK)	Transition to Year 2 – 40mins	Including nightly reading, Spelling and Maths based on the previous weeks work.
	Year 3 to Year 5 – 1.5hrs	
	Year 6 – 2.5hrs	
MIDDLE SCHOOL (EACH WEEK)	Year 7 to Year 8 – 3hrs	Plus recreational reading 20 minutes 3 nights a week.
	Year 9 – 5hrs	
SENIOR SCHOOL (EACH WEEK)	Year 10 – 6hrs	Plus recreational reading 20 minutes 4 nights a week

Homework begun, but not completed due to time constraints or other commitments, should be accompanied by an explanatory note from parents. This could be either on the homework, via a note or in student diaries. Parents may request an extension or indicate homework will not be completed. Both students and parents are encouraged to speak with their TAG teacher (for students in MS) or the class teachers (for students in Primary).

Extensions for assignments should not be assumed and are not approved until they are confirmed in writing (or email) by the teacher. Assignments submitted late without prior explanation will have marks deducted. Even if they are not handed in on the due date, assignments still need to be submitted, as they are considered integral to the formal learning, assessment and reporting process.

5: SCOPE

The policy applies to the parents, staff and students of Nhulunbuy Christian College community.