



Teaching & Learning Policy

1-4 Homework

Prepared by	CEN Hub Compliance Officer
Date Prepared	October 2019
Date ratified by the Board:	...
Monitored by	Principal
Review by	Director of Teaching and Learning
Date for review	2022
Status	Final
Policy Pertains to:	Principal; all teachers; students & parents
File Details:	...

Version	Date	Notes
1.1	October 2019	New Illawarra Christian School Policy

Authorised By	Date



Version History

Version	Date	Notes
1.0	October 2019	New Illawarra Christian School policy

Illawarra Christian School: Mission In Christ's service to partner with parents in providing a quality Christian Education founded on the Word of God.

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Important related documents:

Teaching & Learning Policy suite
WHS Policy suite
Welfare Policy
Discipline Policy

Complaints Framework
Student Code of Conduct
School Rules

Relevant Legislation:

Education Act 1990 (NSW)
Education and Teaching Legislation Amendment Act 2016 (NSW)
Australian Education Act 2013
Australian Education Amendment Bill 2014
Disability Discrimination Act (Cth)1992
Disability Discrimination and other Human Rights Legislation Amendment Act (Cth) 2009
NSW Anti-Discrimination Act (1975)
NSW Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (2004)

Other References:

Registered & Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual, January 2017, latest version on website
Disability Standards for Education, 2005

1 INTRODUCTION

Illawarra Christian School sets homework for students as an adjunct to their progressive training in study skills and self-discipline in learning; to review recently acquired skills; and to help them become more independent for the increasing study requirements of senior school and tertiary study.

2 CHRISTIAN RATIONALE

Illawarra Christian School partners with parents in the education and training of their children. Homework allows parents to have a daily indication of the work their child is doing and, therefore, provides some regular accountability and transparency from the school. Parents can then better engage in dialogue and feedback to the school.

Setting homework provides additional opportunity for the student to develop their personal work habits and to take responsibility for their study and tasks. It encourages the student to extend the learning experiences which have begun at school, using resources, human or other, at home and in the community.

Homework allows time and opportunity for concentrated study areas where special effort is needed in remediation, in the practice of skills and in extension areas. It assists with the development of individual study habits that encourage the student to work independently. The habits laid down in early years will create a strong personal ethic for responsibility, as a man or woman of God, in many aspects of life.

3 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document sets out the policy and procedures that the school follows in the allocation and checking of the student's homework.

4 TABLE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

<i>Responsibilities</i>	<i>Evidence of Compliance</i>
Principal	
Ensure requirements of Teaching & Learning policy being met	Teaching programs
Head Teachers and Coordinators	
Ensure consistency of homework across grades/ subjects	Teaching programs
Set Assessment Schedule to spread homework load for students	Assessment Schedule
Teachers	
Consistency in setting homework & checking return	Teacher records, Seqta, student reports
Students	
Complete & return homework as instructed	Seqta, student reports
Parents	
Support the school's homework policy & support children in their learning activities	Seqta, parent-teacher interviews

5 DEFINITIONS

Nil

6 POLICY

- (a) All children from Kindergarten upwards are usually given some work to complete at home, which is set by the class/ subject teacher.
- (b) The amount of homework required of students increases with the age of the student.
- Kindergarten: 10–15 minutes, 4 times per week
 - Year 1: 10–15 minutes, 4 times per week
 - Year 2: 20 minutes, 4 times per week
 - Years 3 and 4: approximately 30 minutes, 4 times per week
 - Years 5 and 6: approximately 40 minutes, 4 times per week
 - Year 7: approximately 1 hour per night, 4 times per week
 - Year 8: approximately 1.5 hours per night, 4 times per week
 - Year 9: approximately 2 hours per night, 4 times per week
 - Year 10: approximately 2.5 hours per night, 5 times per week
 - Year 11: approximately 18–20 hours per week
 - Year 12: building to approximately 24–28 hours per week
- (c) Set homework will generally be revision for consolidation and practice, or extension of material already taught. Generally, it should not be used to cover new ground or as a vital link in the progression of the program.
- (d) Homework should be achievable, and not rely on resources that may not be available to students.
- (e) If no work is formally set, students are expected to revise work, pursue independent research on topics related to their studies, or read library books or novels being studied.

7 PROCEDURES

7.1 General

- (a) Teachers will communicate homework expectations to parents early in each school year.
- (b) Students with learning support needs may have adjustments to set homework as determined by their Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and in consultation with parents and the Head Teacher or Coordinator.
- (c) Secondary teachers will consult with colleagues to set homework expectations for consistency.
- (d) Teachers will check often that homework is done, communicate with parents when homework is consistently not completed, and provide prompt and useful feedback to students on their progress.
- (e) Parents should communicate with teachers if there are any problems with their child completing tasks. This communication should be in writing as soon as practicable to the class teacher (K–6), or the Pastoral Care or subject teacher (7–12).
- (f) If homework is consistently not completed, the teacher will speak to the student's parents to discuss the situation.
- (g) If the student continues not to hand in completed homework, the Head Teacher or Coordinator will call the student's parents to discuss the matter.
- (h) Further disciplinary action may be followed, if required. (Discipline Policy)

7.2 Expectations

- (a) Students are expected to complete all tasks set for them to the best of their ability.
- (b) Homework and assignments should be completed by the due date. In the case of assessment tasks, the relevant teachers will determine whether exceptional circumstances warrant an extension of time. (T&L 2-1 Secondary Assessment policy)

7.3 Kindergarten–Year 6

- (a) Students are expected to complete a regular amount of set homework throughout the year, Monday to Thursday in school terms.
- (b) The time expected to be spent in homework will gradually increase throughout schooling.
- (c) Students are provided with a Boomerang Folder when they enter Kindergarten and this is used through K–6 for the transportation of homework and notes.
- (d) Homework should be checked regularly by both parents and teachers.
- (e) K–6 teachers will consult with one another concerning the relevance and consistency across the department.
- (f) Homework will have a significant focus on literacy and numeracy skills. These and other activities align with the current focus in the classroom.
- (g) Holiday homework will not be set for students in K–6.

7.4 Years 7–12

- (a) Secondary students are expected to undertake some self-directed work both at school and at home. The amount of time spent in this area increases with each school year. Students will increasingly be required to revise their learning, write study notes, do extra reading, conduct research in areas related to their studies and complete practice responses and examination papers.
- (b) Students are expected to complete a regular amount of homework throughout the year. Students are informed about the recommended amount of time to be spent on homework for each year. This will vary from about four hours each week in Year 7 to approximately 24-28 hours in Year 12.
- (c) Homework requirements are generally registered by the teacher on Seqta (the school's online learning management system). Parents are encouraged to regularly check homework details on Seqta.
- (d) Students in Years 10–12 may be set homework to be completed during school holidays. For a two-week period, this will vary from about 10 hours in Year 10 to approximately 40 hours in Year 12. Senior students may be required to complete additional homework in the pupil-free week.

7.5 Parent Help with Homework

Whilst homework can help involve parents in their child's education, care needs to be taken regarding the type of homework set and the expectations and demands placed on parents in this area.

Parents should not have a major part in completing the student's work. Suitable assistance would be for parents to:

- Give guidance on locating resources etc.
- Help with the student's organisation of time.
- Discuss presentation plans.
- Use questioning to help the student discover a correct method or process.

If parents have had a greater part in helping a student complete their homework, they should acknowledge this to the teacher.