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Homework Policy

Homework	<p>Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.</p> <p>It is a requirement of the NSW Registration Manual (3.6.2) that all non-government schools have a documented homework policy in place.</p>
Homework Policy	<p>All aspects of learning at Glenaeon are considered in relation to the child's stage of development, including homework.</p> <p>Homework is considered to be an important part of a student's education and should always complement, balance and extend the nature of the learning at school</p>
Kindergarten to Class 2	<p>The early childhood world is one of unity and active exploration of the world. Learning is through imagination and the intellectual faculties mature below the surface of feeling and will development.</p> <p>For Kindergarten children creative play in unstructured setting provides a rich foundation for all later imaginative, cognitive and emotional development. In addition guided and simple handwork tasks and participation in the domestic life of the home, are all that is needed to support the child at this stage in development.</p> <p>Formal learning begins in Class 1 and over the school Years 1 and 2, the child's academic needs are fully met in the classroom. Creative play, looking at quality illustrated books, completing crafts such as knitting, and simple home activities such as gardening and bushwalking all complement the child's learning at school.</p>
Elements of Homework Classes 3-6	<p>From around the age of 9, separation from the early world of childhood tends to be complete and formal learning can now be extended to homework. Gradually increasing from Year 3 onwards, students should spend from 20 to 45 minutes per day on activities drawn from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Lesson completion and extension: Glenaeon's main lessons are enriched, interdisciplinary blocks of learning delivered over a three week period. The Main Lesson task, usually completion of a book of the student's own work, requires a combination of academic, artistic and design elements all devoted to a core topic that is appropriate to the students' year level and stage of development. In the early years, the completion of this main lesson book is undertaken during school lesson time. As the volume and sophistication of work increases there is an expectation that main lesson work will be completed and the topic further explored at home, to a level appropriate for the year. Particular Main Lessons will include projects which creatively extend the learning around the topic eg Building project in Year 3, Animal project in Year 4, Ancient Epoch project in Year 5, Ancient Rome project in Year 6; • Basic Skills in core subjects: English and Mathematics practice is required from Year 4 onwards. Each week there will be practice exercises that revise and consolidate skills in English and Maths which have been laid down in Main Lessons. In the practice homework students will not encounter new material, but will deepen their understanding and skills in these core subjects; • Reading program: Literacy develops through a wide reading program which nourishes the imagination and builds vocabulary and comprehension. Students should read quality literature regularly, ideally on a daily basis;

- Music Practice: Proficiency on an instrument is dependent on regular practice, and the more regular, the more the proficiency. There is now a wealth of evidence showing the cognitive, emotional and physical benefits on the growing human being of learning a musical instrument, as well of course as the simple human joy of making music;
- “Homework”: Contribution to the household by regularly completing a household chore for the family. Children and young people learn to be productive and useful members of a community by regularly undertaking tasks that help the household: walking the dog, watering the garden, washing the car. If undertaken on a daily basis, these tasks build a sense of responsibility and a work ethic that will last through life.
- Artisan Program completion: The Artisan program builds facility with the hands and motivation in the will. From Class 1 there is an expectation that from time to time Craft textile projects will be extended and completed at home eg knitting, sewing, crochet, cross stitch.

Elements of Homework Years 7-12

Homework in high school establishes habits of study, attention and self-discipline which will build a positive relationship to learning and a healthy work ethic for life.

As students move through the high school, the demands of homework will increase:

- Year 7 to 9: 45 to 90 minutes per school day;
- Year 10 to 12: 2 to 3 hours per school day, and up to 6 hours on weekend in peak assessment times.

The demands of homework increase in high school and it is important for students to maintain a balanced program: reading quality literature, playing a musical instrument, being part of a sporting team and contributing to the domestic life of the home continue to be important aspects of life outside school. In addition, formal homework at Glenaeon will include:

- Main Lesson completion and extension: In high school the main lessons become projects in themselves, extended and rich tasks that deepen learning around a core topic eg. The Renaissance, Conic Sections, Epic Literature etc. Completion and extension of the main lesson work needs to be undertaken as part of homework requirements;
- Subject Homework: Each subject will have homework tasks set on a regular basis. Tasks will review and/or extend work that has been initiated in class;

The nature, frequency and volume of homework set are left to the professional judgement of teachers in consultation with Coordinators and the Collegiate Chair. Homework diaries ensure that records of homework are kept and can be checked by teachers and parents.

Helping Homework Happen

While homework is undertaken by individual students, the successful fulfilment of the potential for homework to enrich a student’s learning is best achieved when it is a cooperative venture.

Glenaeon works with parents in the education of their children. parents can assist their children's leaning by encouraging them to do their homework and by helping them where necessary.

Parents and caregivers can help by:

Parents who have concerns about their children's homework should, in the first instance, raise their concerns with the teacher. For further detail refer to [Parent Communication Policy](#).

- Taking an active interest in homework;
- Ensuring that there is time set aside in the family routine for homework;
- Encouraging and supporting students to complete homework;

Teachers can help by:

- Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study;
- Encouraging their children to read quality literature;
- 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 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.
- Explaining to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework;
- Ensuring students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy;
- Providing quality homework activities related to classwork;
- Setting a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student;
- Ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed;
- Giving students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations and extracurricular activities and homework set by other teachers;

Students can help by:

- Coordinating with other teachers to ensure the demands of homework are reasonably spaced across a term;
- Marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents or caregivers;
- Alerting parents or caregivers of any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework.
- Being aware of the importance of homework;
- Being aware of their school's homework policy;
- Completing homework within the given time frame;
- Alerting parents or caregivers to homework expectations;
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise;
- Striving to ensure homework is of a high standard;
- Organising their personal time to ensure that sufficient time is given to completing quality homework within the set time.

Implementation

Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School has set up a series of compliance tasks on our [Assurance System](#), to ensure that key obligations under the NSW Registration Manual are managed effectively.