HOMESTUDY POLICY

St Francis Xavier College
Established October, 2007
Ratified by College Board
November, 2007
Amended November, 2010
Ratified by College Board February, 2011
VISION

St Francis Xavier College is a Catholic community that is educative and supportive. We have a clear purpose: the development of a person of competence, conscience and compassion formed in the Christian tradition; one who is guided by a sense of hope and self belief and who will be of service in the world. We recognise God’s presence in our lives by celebrating and pursuing personal excellence and by living courageously with optimism and respect for all.

RATIONALE

Homestudy is an integral component of curriculum delivery at St Francis Xavier College. It provides opportunities for reflection, revision and reinforcement. Homestudy is designed to reinforce what students have already learnt, to prepare them for upcoming lessons, extend what they know by having them apply it to new situations, or to integrate their abilities by applying many different skills to a single task. Homestudy also provides an opportunity for parents to participate in their children’s education.

A number of studies claim that, within limits, there is a positive correlation between the amount of homework done and student achievement. Student learning improves when homestudy serves a clear purpose and is matched to both the skills of each individual student and to the current topics being taught in class.

POLICY

Students are expected to complete homestudy and submit work by designated dates. Experience and research suggests that the following amount of time on homestudy will meet most students’ commitments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hours per week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>5 – 6 Hours per week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>6 – 7 Hours per week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>7 – 8 Hours per week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>10 Hours per week</td>
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VCE

VCE students are required to manage a more complex and varied homestudy regimen. This will include completion of class work, extension activities, long-term projects and skills preparation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Hours per subject per week</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>2 – 3 Hours per subject per week</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year 12</th>
<th>Hours per subject per week</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>3 – 4 Hours per subject per week</td>
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Year 11 and Year 12 students will be required to use some holiday time for preparation, completion of tasks, skills practice and examination preparation.

EXPECTATIONS

FOR STUDENTS

- Being aware of the importance of homestudy.
- Being aware of the College Homestudy Policy.
- Completing homestudy, assignments, etc. within the given time frame.
- Alerting parents/guardians to homestudy expectations.
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents/guardians when difficulties arise.
- Using the Student Record Book to record homestudy requirements.
- Showing homestudy to their parents/guardians.
- Ensuring homestudy is completed to a high standard.
• Ensuring adequate time is given to quality homestudy within set deadlines.
• Be accepting of appropriate consequences for non-completion of homestudy.

FOR TEACHERS
• Explaining to students and their parents/guardians the purpose and benefits of homestudy.
• Ensuring students and parents/guardians are aware of the College Homestudy Policy.
• Providing quality homestudy activities related to current class work.
• Setting a suitable amount of relevant homestudy which is appropriate to the ability of each student.
• Ensuring that students are aware of expectations and assessment criteria.
• Giving students appropriate time to complete homestudy, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations and extracurricular activities and homestudy set by other teachers.
• Marking homestudy promptly and appropriately, maintaining homestudy records and providing effective feedback to students and parents/guardians.
• Alerting parents/guardians of any developing problems concerning their children’s homestudy and suggesting strategies to assist their children with their homestudy.
• Applying appropriate consequences when dealing with students who have not completed homestudy tasks.

FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS
• Taking an active interest in their children’s homestudy.
• Ensuring that there is time set aside for homestudy.
• Encouraging and supporting their children to complete homestudy.
• Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homestudy.
• Encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events.
• Assisting teachers to monitor homestudy by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homestudy set.
• Communicating with subject teachers, Care Group teachers or House Coordinators any concerns about the nature of homestudy and their children’s approach to the homestudy.
• Alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may impact on homestudy.

TYPES OF HOMESTUDY

St Francis Xavier College recognises that the amount of time students are expected to spend on homestudy will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations.

The College follows the Victorian Government Education Department guidelines which suggest that homestudy should
• be appropriate to the student’s skill level and age.
• be interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open-ended.
• be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.
• be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum.
• be assessed by teachers with feedback and support.

The three main types of homestudy are:

1. Practice exercises - providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills.
2. **Preparatory homestudy** - providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons.

3. **Extension assignments** - encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively

Wherever possible homestudy should recognise the place of technology in today’s world and the benefits of using technology for organising and accessing information. However, we should be aware of equity issues when setting homestudy that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged.

*Please note that this Homestudy Policy is to be read in conjunction with the “Submission of Work Policy’, ‘Behaviour Management Policy’ and ‘Attendance Policy’*