

Rationale

Tatachilla Lutheran College Middle School Home Learning Policy supports the development of independent learners through home learning tasks which extend from two nights to over a week. The College believes that home learning should be purposeful and relevant to student needs and exist with clear time limits for individuals to achieve set tasks. Home learning involves the engagement of students, parents and teachers in an ongoing process of development and support of each child through a range of activities, including through the Coneqt portals. The College believes that support should be given to students to achieve the learning goals of the set task and a commitment to embedding study skills to help students learn to manage their time. Below are list of guiding principles for staff to support students.

Definition

When setting home learning, the following guiding principles are to be adhered to:

1. Where appropriate students are provided extended time (e.g. a week) to complete home learning tasks as:

- 1.1 this encourages the development of independent learning skills and empowers students to make appropriate decisions regarding their schedule, balancing out of school commitments and home routines;
- 1.2 this provides opportunity for students to seek support before the work is due in the case where they are experiencing difficulty;
- 1.3 students will be provided a minimum of one (1) week for all home learning tasks. The due date for these tasks should be negotiated with students, so due dates across the learning areas do not fall on the same day; and
- 1.4 it is an acceptable practice that teachers may not set home learning each week for their students.

2. In some cases learning can be better supported with more regular home learning tasks that have a shorter due date (less than a week). Furthermore:

- 2.1 flexibility with due dates may need to be considered in the case where students are balancing a large number of home learning tasks with other extra curricular activities and external commitments;
- 2.2 consequences for incomplete work will need to take into account the shorter timeframe and reduced opportunity for support (i.e. an automatic 'study room' for incomplete home learning is not appropriate when students have not had the time to seek support); and
- 2.3 a minimum of two (2) nights to complete a home learning task. However, at times teachers may set home learning over a night due to the student not using their time appropriately in class.

3. The benefit of home learning to improve student learning is significantly enhanced where feedback on home learning is provided, as:

- 3.1 feedback can be given through a variety of ways, e.g. peer to peer feedback, class discussion, Continuous Feedback visible through Coneqt S and Coneqt P portals, written or verbal feedback.

4. The study home learning timetable in the Middle School student diary is designed to assist students to form a regular home learning pattern in balancing school work requirements and extra curricular activities. A home learning timetable will be provided to students at the beginning of each semester that gives teachers and students guidance as to which nights of the week home learning is set per subject. Families are encouraged to adjust this to meet their child individual commitments such as sport.

5. Home learning tasks should be well communicated with parents and students via the use of the student diary and the Coneqt portals. This enhances and enables the engagement of

student and parent partners in home learning activities.

6. Holiday and break times:

6.1 Holiday time for students is a time of respite and break from the normal school routines that they experience in a term. Holiday time also provides students a chance to connect with their families and engage in their hobbies and interests in a deeper way. Therefore, setting home learning in holiday time for students from Years 7 to 9 is not recommended.

6.2 Students in these year levels may need to complete a small task if they have not completed it by the due date during the term, however new work should not be given.

7. Term Time Guidelines:

The guidelines are as follows as a maximum time limit:

7	3-4 hours per week/approximately 35 mins per night
8	4-5 hours per week/approximately 40 mins per night
9	5-6 hours per week/approximately 50 mins per night

Below are further guidelines for subject areas on time limits for home learning tasks per year level.

Year Level	Recommended time per week and suggested content
Year 7	Numeracy - 30 minutes Literacy – 30 minutes Completion of Summative Assessment Tasks and/or short term Formative tasks from other learning areas – 3 hours
Year 8	Numeracy – 30 Minutes Literacy – 30 Minutes Completion of Summative Assessment Tasks and/or short term Formative tasks from other learning areas – 4 hours
Year 9	Numeracy - 30 minutes Literacy – 30 minutes Completion of Summative Assessment tasks and/or short term Formative tasks from other learning areas – 5 hours

Adapted from the New South Wales Government Homework Review in 2012, which compared findings from the UK and various States within Australia.

Related Policies:

- Home Learning Policy – Junior School
- Home Learning Policy – Senior School