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## **SJC Homework Guidelines**

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**Effective Date** January 2023

**Review (Date & Staff)** July 2025

**Associated Documents**

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# **SJC Learning at Home (Homework) Guidelines - Parent Edition**

## **Rationale:**

Learning does not stop when a student leaves the classroom. At St. Joseph's College, there is an expectation that learning at home (homework) occurs across all year levels, increasing with each year group from Year 7 to Year 12. For the purpose of this document, homework refers to "learning tasks given to students by their teachers to be completed outside of usual lessons."<sup>1</sup>

Homework not only supports and enhances learning during class lessons but also provides an opportunity to develop independent learning habits and dispositions away from the classroom. This is aligned with research on homework for secondary students which shows that "as students grow older, homework has a growing effect on achievement outcomes."<sup>2</sup> Additionally, learning at home has the potential to free up class time for the consolidation and application of learning, allowing teaching to progress and accelerate. Consistent homework practices also build the work ethic necessary to manage and succeed in learning in Senior school and beyond.

For this document, learning is categorised into three levels: knowledge (facts, figures, processes and information), understanding (the connection and relationship of ideas and knowledge) and application (using knowledge and understanding to solve problems in various situations or contexts).

## **Types of homework that promote learning gain:**

The type of homework that teachers give is crucial to whether students will improve their learning.<sup>3</sup> Homework issued for Years 7 - 10 should focus on developing foundational knowledge and skills. This type of homework consolidates classroom learning and should require little or no assistance from parents or other household members. As students progress through Years 11 and 12, homework will increase and may include developing an understanding and application of learning.

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<sup>1</sup> [Evidence For Learning. Homework \(Secondary\) - References](#) (accessed 11/5/2022).

<sup>2</sup> [Evidence For Learning. Homework - A summary of the research evidence on homework in the Australasian context](#) (accessed 12/06/2024).

<sup>3</sup> [Evidence For Learning. Homework - How effective is the approach?](#) (accessed 26/8/2022).

## The issuing of homework

All homework is recorded on Compass and is viewable on the Schedule to students, parents and teachers.

## Recommended time spent on homework:

For a student with good personal organisation of time and resources, the guideline for the expected time spent on homework is up to [10 minutes per grade](#). The guidelines at SJC are:

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Year 7:  | 30 - 70 minutes per weekday.  |
| Year 8:  | 40 - 80 minutes per weekday.  |
| Year 9:  | 50 - 90 minutes per weekday.  |
| Year 10: | 60 - 100 minutes per weekday. |
| Year 11: | 70 - 110 minutes per weekday. |
| Year 12: | 80 - 120 minutes per weekday. |

## The role of parents/guardians in homework:

The role of parents/guardians in creating work habits outside of the classroom is crucial and parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's homework. Parents/guardians should regularly check their child's Compass Schedule and assist their child, particularly in the junior years, to be organised to complete the homework in an environment that is, where possible, free from distractions such as mobile phones, tv, music and household noise.

If the parent/guardian has concerns regarding the completion of homework they should write a note in their child's diary next to the homework and/or contact the subject teacher via email or phoning the College office.

## Non-completion of homework:

- Non-completion of homework will be reflected in the student's SEAR.
- Students in Years 7 - 9 who continue to display a pattern of non-completion of homework in a SEAR cycle will be issued a *Behaviour Incident (Minor) - Learning* on Compass from the classroom teacher.
- Students entitled to a Super Afternoon will have this revoked if they have overdue homework.
- For students in Years 10 to 12, an N-Award warning letter will be issued for three cases of homework non-completion in a SEAR cycle (i.e. three weeks of non-completion) and, subsequently, the student will receive a score of 2 in that SEAR cycle.