



# St Pius X High School

## Home Learning Policy

### 1. Rationale

We encourage students to appreciate the importance of taking responsibility for their own learning. They need to be organised and self-motivated in order to develop the best possible understanding of the concepts and skills covered at school.

We also recognise that students need to be taught specific skills, approaches and techniques to assist them to reach their potential. These skills and this knowledge they gain will assist them to deal with learning different disciplines, in different context and at different times in their lives. Becoming more aware of their own learning styles is an essential step in becoming an independent and life-long learner.

There is always something that a student can do at home to help them reach their potential. The three main activities are:

**Homework**, or work set by the classroom teacher, is a regular feature of some subjects. It is usually designed to reinforce the concepts covered in class but often includes locating resources or reading a class novel. Homework is usually set one day and marked the next school day.

**Preparing for and completing the Assessment Tasks.** Some tasks are tests, others require research and the presentation of information in various ways. Learning how to manage the preparation of several tasks due around a similar time is an essential skill.

**Study and revision** is work initiated by the student. By preparing their own summaries, tests and reminders, students are better able to keep information fresh and develop a deeper understanding of the topic. To be effective, students should revise the information at regular intervals.

### 2. Aim

The aims of our home learning policy are:

- 2.1 to encourage independent, self-reliant work habits
- 2.2 to provide a realistic recommendation on how much time at home students should spend on school work.
- 2.3 to help prepare students for the increased workload expected in later years of education.
- 2.4 to impress upon students that education is not restricted to the confines of a classroom.

### **3. Implementation**

*The successful completion of homework, Assessment Tasks and study requires a significant level of personal organisation and a variety of skills. To assist students with this challenge the school will provide:*

#### 3.1 The Student Planner

All students are given a planner which is very useful for the recording of homework and assignments. It also has information on:

- Organising yourself
- Revision techniques
- Memory techniques
- Mind maps
- Learning styles
- Research techniques
- Exam preparation

#### 3.2 Class time spent on becoming a better student

Lessons are held throughout the year to help students take more responsibility for their own learning. Class time is devoted to making students more aware of how they can use different tools and techniques to become more independent with their learning.

#### 3.3 A scaffold to assist organisation

When distributing assessment Tasks in Stage 4 all faculties will include a “How to Get Started” sheet that scaffolds breaking the task into manageable pieces and allocating time to complete the task.

#### 3.4 Assistance to parents

Information and assistance will be provided to parents via:

- Year 7 and Year 10 Curriculum Information Evenings (held in Term 1)
- Assessment Handbooks
- Newsletters

### **4. Budget**

### **5. Evaluation**

At the end of each year the Studies Team will evaluate the implementation of this policy and determine if adjustments are required.