Rationale
The Melbourne Declaration on The Educational Goals for Young Australians states

‘Improving educational outcomes for all young Australians is central to the nation’s social and economic prosperity and will position young people to live fulfilling, productive and responsible lives’ (MCEETYA, 2008).

Nagle College believes homework is an integral aspect to helping all pupils maximise their achievements and to develop a life-long habit of independent learning. We believe effective homework supports and complements the learning process beyond the classroom, helping to develop positive study techniques as well as encouraging students to be responsible for their own learning. To become successful learners it is essential, among other things, that students ‘develop a capacity to learn and play an active role in their own learning and are motivated to reach their full potential’ (MCEETYA, 2008)

In addition, we acknowledge and support the role of families in the education of their children and work to continually develop this relationship. At Nagle College homework is seen as an opportunity for parents to engage in their child’s learning especially at the junior levels strengthening the relationships between students, parents and teachers.

Mission
Community Nature of Our College
As a pastoral community, Nagle College aims to build positive relationships based on mutual respect and trust. We value, nurture and celebrate the uniqueness of each individual’s gifts and talents. We recognise families as the primary educators of our students and we will communicate and collaborate with parents for the optimum development of their children.

Scripture
The beginning of wisdom is: get wisdom; at the cost of all you have, get understanding
Proverbs 4:7

Vision
Nagle College is a dynamic, hope-filled community, pursuing personal excellence and self discovery through education for all students in a nurturing Catholic community in the Salesian tradition.

Policy Statement
Nagle College provides regular, well planned and appropriate homework for all students. Homework will be consistent and appropriate to the skill level and age of students.

Definitions
Homework: Any task completed outside the classroom to support learning. Tasks completed outside the classroom are an integral and meaningful extension of the work being studied at school.
**Study:** The act or process of studying; the pursuit of knowledge, as by reading, observation, or research.

**Aims and Purposes**

Research shows that the most effective form of homework is ‘short, frequent homework monitored by the teacher’ (Trautwein, Koller, Schmitz and Baumert, 2002, as cited in Hattie, 2009).

The aims and purposes of homework at Nagle College are:

- To develop students’ study and research skills
- To reinforce knowledge and concepts
- To encourage students to be organised and self-motivated in their work and develop independent learning skills
- To prepare for future learning
- To develop self-discipline
- To encourage further discovery and learning
- To extend, complement, consolidate and revise work completed in class as well as prepare for future lessons.
- To encourage and develop literacy and numeracy skills.
- To utilise materials and resources not readily available in the classroom.

**Junior Homework**

Homework in the junior years will focus on application of classroom learning. Tasks will be designed to encourage thinking skills, student organisation, study techniques and family interaction.

Homework at the junior levels should consist of

- Regular homework set each week
- Short daily tasks (pupils must know the regularity so as to plan their homework)
- Several tasks set to be completed over a period of time
- Reading
- Directed Revision

**Senior Homework**

Homework will become less structured and more self directed as pupils move into the senior year levels.

Homework at the senior levels should consist of

- Set tasks
- Regular Study / Revision
- Work catch up
- Reading
Guidelines
Nagle College homework guidelines are developed to assist students, families and staff with appropriate strategies for effective homework and study.

- Homework opportunities will be identified in course outlines and work plans.
- Homework is set consistently across learning teams. Homework format will vary from subject to subject and year to year.
- Homework will be consistent in its planning and timing.
- Homework should be appropriate to the skill level and age of the student.
- Homework should be differentiated allowing for different student abilities in the class.
- Homework should have a clear purpose and relevance to the student’s learning program.
- Homework can and should involve parents/guardians at various times in particular at the junior levels.
- Homework is to be checked by teachers, with appropriate feedback and follow-up provided.
- Each learning team will implement the policy by incorporating tasks in the courses of study. The procedures, amount and nature of homework in each year should fit in with the ethos of the subject and the rationale and aims & purpose of the homework policy.

Expectations
- Students are expected to complete to the best of their ability, and submit on time, all tasks set down within their courses of study.
- It is expected that students will need to complete some components of their study program at home, in their own time.
- There is an expectation that homework will be set regularly across all learning areas. The amount will vary with age, ability and the individual needs of students. It will provide opportunities to extend and complement work in the classroom.
- Parents are encouraged to help their children establish regular study habits and to provide suitable physical conditions to complete homework.
- Each pupil will use their student diary to record homework tasks and due dates.

References