



HOMework POLICY

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, sport, culture, recreation, and part-time employment where appropriate.

In the **Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3)** many activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills. Homework tasks may include:

- daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or other family members
- linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- conversations about what is happening at school
- preparation for oral presentations
- opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.

In the Prep Year, generally students will not be set homework. In Years 1, 2 and 3, set homework could be up to but generally not more than 1 and ½ hours per week for year 1 & 2 and two hours per week for year 3. The more reading practice, the better students will be prepared for a good future. Reading practice involves silent reading, reading aloud, students reading to parents and students and parents reading aloud together. Learning number facts throughout primary school is also essential. Practice at home will be necessary.

In the **Middle Phase (Year 4 to Year 9)** some homework can be completed daily or over a weekly period and may:

- include daily independent reading
- be coordinated across different subject areas
- include development of class work, projects and research, and
- include extension work.

In years 4 to 6 the amount of time spent learning at home will vary, but generally a student would expect to complete up to 5 hours per week.

In Years 7 to 9 students should be given more responsibility for their own learning. They can be required to engage in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class. Homework in these years could be up to but generally not more than 10 hours per week.

In the **Senior Phase (Years 10, 11 and 12)** the amount of time devoted to homework (includes reading, revision and independent study time) will vary according to the student's learning needs and individual program of learning.

While teachers may provide students with additional work relevant to their learning which the student may undertake at home, young people during this phase should generally be independent learners exercising their own judgement as to the out-of-hours time they devote to their studies. Of course, care should be taken to ensure that a balance is maintained between the various demands of study, sporting, recreational, cultural or part-time employment activities. Homework (includes revision and assessment writing) in the senior years could be up to but generally not more than 15 hours per week.



PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

Homework can engage students in independent learning to complete work undertaken in class through:

- ✓ Revision and reflection to consolidate learning.
- ✓ Applying knowledge and skills in new contexts.
- ✓ Pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively.
- ✓ Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning.

Homework that enhances student learning:

- ✓ Is purposeful and relevant to students' needs.
- ✓ Is appropriate to the phase of learning (Early, Middle or Senior).
- ✓ Is appropriate to the capability of the student.
- ✓ Develops the student's independence as a learner.
- ✓ Is varied, challenging and clearly related to the class work.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- ✓ Discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations.
- ✓ Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework expectations within set time frames.
- ✓ Following up on comments made by teachers.
- ✓ Seeking assistance when difficulties arise - ask questions, see the teacher before class and after class, make email contact.
- ✓ Organising their time to manage and balance home expectations, participation in physical activity and sport, cultural and recreational activities and part-time employment.

TEACHERS RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- ✓ Ensuring their school's homework policy is implemented.
- ✓ Setting homework on a regular basis.
- ✓ Clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework.
- ✓ Checking homework regularly and providing timely and useful feedback.
- ✓ Using homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs.
- ✓ Explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through homework.
- ✓ Giving consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework.
- ✓ Discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.

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PARENTS / CARERS RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- ✓ reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity.
- ✓ helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- ✓ encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning .
- ✓ encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events.
- ✓ helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities.
- ✓ contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.