



HOMEWORK POLICY (P-12)

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HOMEWORK POLICY (P-12)

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behavior 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, recreation, cultural pursuits and employment where appropriate.

Homework that enhances student learning:

- Is purposeful and relevant to each student's needs;
- Is appropriate to the phase of learning (Early, Junior, Middle and Senior);
- Is appropriate to the capability of the student;
- Develops the student's independence as a learner;
- Is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work;
- Allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities.

USING VARIED AND CHALLENGING HOMEWORK APPROPRIATE TO STUDENT'S LEARNING NEEDS

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

- Revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practising for mastery);
- Applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue);
- Pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making);
- Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information).

RESPONSIBILITIES

TEACHERS

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 provide timely and useful feedback;
- Using homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to student's 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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STUDENTS

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- Being aware of the school's homework policy;
- Discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations;
- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames;
- Following up on comments made by teachers;
- Seeking assistance when difficulties arise;
- Organising their time to manage home obligation, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS WITH HOMEWORK

Parents and caregivers can have a key role in the development of the school's homework policy.

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 spend 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.

CONSIDERING STUDENTS' OTHER COMMITMENTS WHEN SETTING HOMEWORK

In determining homework, it is important to acknowledge that students may be engaging in many different activities outside of school. These include a range of physical activities and sports, recreational and cultural pursuits. Older students may also have part-time employment. Some students have responsibilities as caregivers.

HOMEWORK APPROPRIATE TO PARTICULAR PHASES OF LEARNING

The following is a guide in determining the amount of set homework that students might be expected to undertake. It is of course open to parents to consult with a student's teacher about additional materials or practice exercises with which parents can assist their children at home.

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In the Early Phase of Learning (P-2) 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;
- Some elements of drill and practice tasks (e.g. number facts, operations...).

In the Early Years Phase of Learning, Prep, Years 1 and 2 homework could be up to but generally not more than 1 hour per week.

In the Junior and Middle Phases (3-9) some homework can be completed daily or over a weekly or fortnightly period and may:

- Include daily independent reading;
- Be coordinated across different subject areas;
- Include extension of class work, projects and research;
- Incorporate elements of drill and practice tasks.

Homework in Year 3, 4 and 5 could be up to but generally not more than 2-3 hours per week. Homework in Year 6 and 7 could be up to but generally not more than 3-4 hours per week. In Year 8 and 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 Year 8 and 9 could be up to but generally not more than 5 hours per week.

In the Senior Phase (Years 10, 11 and 12) the amount of time devoted to homework and independent study will vary according to the student's learning needs and individual program of learning, determined through their Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan.

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. Homework in Year 10, 11 and 12 could be up to 10 hours per week. 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.