

Homework Policy

Relevant legislation and policy – Part 4 Section 22 and Section 23 Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2000
<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/E/EducGenProvR00.pdf>

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

Statement of Intent

Homework that enhances student learning:

- is purposeful and relevant to students needs
- is appropriate to the phase of learning (early, 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

Homework Appropriate to Particular Phases of Learning

The following is to operate as a guide in determining the amount of set homework that students might be expected to undertake. Parents of course, may consult with a student's teacher about additional materials or practice exercises with which they can assist their children at home. In the *Middle Phase (Year 4 to Year 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.

From Year 7, 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 7, 8 and 9 could be up to but generally not more than 5 hours per week.

In the Senior Phase (**Years 10, 11 & 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.

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 and that the student handbook is used to record homework
- 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 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 when setting homework
- discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.
- providing clear instructions on how to access E-LEARN

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 obligations, 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 help their children by:

- reading to them, talking with them, & involving them in tasks at home such as shopping, playing games & 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.

Consequences

- will vary according to learning needs and programs, and may include classroom detention to keep students in at lunchtime for any homework not completed to a satisfactory standard.