

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.

PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

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

- Revising and reflecting to consolidate learning
- Applying knowledge and skills in new contexts
- Pursuing knowledge individually and creatively
- Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning

Homework that enhances student learning:

- Is purposeful and relevant to students' needs
- Is appropriate to the phase of learning (Junior Secondary or Senior Secondary)
- 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

PHASE OF LEARNING

In the Junior Secondary Phase of Learning, (Years 7 – 9), some homework can be completed daily or set over a weekly or fortnightly period and may:

- Include extension or revision of class work, assignments, projects and research
- Be coordinated across different subject areas
- Include daily independent reading

Junior Secondary 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 and should spend 5 – 10 hours per week completing homework.

In the Senior Secondary 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.

Teachers may provide students with additional work relevant to their learning which the student undertakes at home. During this phase, young people are further developing their skills as independent learners. Of course, care should be taken to ensure a balance is maintained between the various demands of study, sporting, cultural, recreational and part-time employment activities.

Senior Secondary students should ensure they complete 10 – 15 hours minimum of homework each week.

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

Using their Student Diary daily at school and home to record, prioritise and organise homework responsibilities.

- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework expectations within set time frames
- Discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations
- Organising their time to manage and balance home expectations, participation in physical activity and sport, cultural and recreational activities and part-time employment
- Ensuring their part-time work commitments fall within the legal guidelines of 12 hours per week
- Seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- Acting on feedback given by teachers

TEACHERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- 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
- Setting homework that is varied, challenging, 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 problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework

PARENTS' and CAREGIVERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents and Caregivers can help their children by:

- Regularly checking their Student Diary
- Reinforcing the importance of homework
- Providing an appropriate environment for their children to successfully focus on homework
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and music, part time work, and engaging in other recreational activities
- Ensuring their student's part-time work commitments fall within the legal guidelines of 12 hours per week
- Helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- Contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework
- Encouraging them to read and to take an interest in discussing current local, national and international events.