

HOMEWORK POLICY - 2009

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. Homework bridges the gap between learning at school and learning at home. It reinforces work done in class and helps to develop skills such as research and time management. Homework also helps to establish the habits of study concentration and self discipline.

It is important to consider the following when setting homework-

1. That it is appropriate for each student's age and ability
2. That it takes into account students' other commitment's
3. That it takes into account technology, so that students without access are not disadvantaged.

Homework is set on a regular basis in most subjects. As students move into the senior years the homework and study demands will increase.

A minimum recommended time guide for homework is as follows-

- Years 7 to 8 - One and half hours
- Years 9 to 10 - Two hours
- Years 11 to 12 - Three hours

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

PRACTICE EXERCISES

Providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise, and reinforce new acquired skills, such as:

- Completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics – memorisation of tables
- Practising spelling words
- Practising words or phrases learning in a Language Other Than English
- Reading for pleasure
- Writing essays and other creative tasks
- Practising and playing musical instruments
- Practising physical education skills

PREPARATORY HOMEWORK

Providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:

- Reading background material for History
- Reading English texts for class discussion
- Researching topics for class work
- Collecting newspaper articles
- Revising information about a current topic

EXTENSION ASSIGNMENTS

Encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:

- Writing a book review
- Making or designing an artwork
- Completing Science investigation exercises
- Researching local news
- Finding material on the Internet
- Monitoring advertising in a newspaper

EXPECTATIONS

Parents and caregivers/Boarding Staff can help their children by:

- Encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation
- Observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing
- Attending school events, displays or productions in which their children are involved
- Encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework
- Setting an example by reading themselves
- Contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with homework
- Helping them to complete homework by discussing any key questions or directing them to resources. Usually it is better to encourage children to complete homework themselves
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities
- Checking whether homework has been set and ensuring they keep a homework diary
- Reading texts set by teachers. Discussing their child's response to the texts and asking to see the work they complete in relation to these texts

Teachers can help their students by:

- Setting regular homework to help students establish a home study routine
- Setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work that are appropriate to the students' learning needs
- Giving students enough time to complete homework, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities
- Assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- Making effective use of student handbooks.
- Coordinating the allocation of homework by different teachers
- Helping students develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning
- Ensuring that students have good information skills
- Ensuring that parents and caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy
- Developing strategies to support parents to become active partners in homework