

The best homework is purposeful and supports the learning that is happening in class – not “busy work”. It should be pitched at the right level of difficulty, be clear and be able to be completed independently.

Is there support for homework at school?

A Homework club operates in the school library every Monday and Thursday afternoon after school until 4.15pm. A teacher is on hand to help and resources are available.

Maths help is available in the room next to the Maths staffroom every lunchtime.

The SEAL program offers support for students who have high levels of sporting commitments and after major class excursions, students are given time for catch up.

All students are encouraged to approach their teacher for extra support.

How can parents best support their children at home?

The most important thing a parent can do is to maintain a positive relationship with their child.

Use your student’s assessment calendar to encourage students to start work early.

It is important to provide a quiet place where homework can be completed.

Focus on helping students to develop choice, autonomy and independent learning.

Acknowledge effort rather than achievement. “Failing” at something is how we learn.

Encourage all learning (not just homework) – talk, read, show interest.

Three Statements about Homework

TEACHER STATEMENT



All Key Learning Areas will encourage homework and/or home learning.

Teachers may set homework to:

- encourage student initiative, self-discipline, and responsibility for learning
- provide opportunities for practice and review of learning, skills, abilities and processes
- facilitate make-up of work missed during absences
- extend and deepen classroom learning
- enable students to prepare for lessons
- encourage and support students in developing time-management skills
- enable students to demonstrate understanding of lessons taught
- stimulate students' independent thinking and problem-solving
- encourage a range of study skills, including helping students to plan to meet a deadline

To do this, set homework will:

- be related to instruction and to course requirements
- be planned
- be interesting, varied, and appropriate to the needs and abilities of the learners
- be given with sufficient time for quality completion
- be given as much in advance as possible, so that students can plan their time to overcome peak periods
- be supported by clear quality instructions
- take into account the availability of resources

Teachers should also

- be flexible in terms of how students can demonstrate their learning
- individualise homework, where possible, to allow students to personalise their learning
- value the homework set by, if not marking it, then acknowledging and discussing it
- give feedback on homework in a timely manner to help students improve
- where possible, be aware of other teachers' assessment deadlines
- give links to resources where possible – not necessarily internet
- value the learning activities that happen in the family/home environment

STUDENT STATEMENT



Both homework and *home learning* are important.

The learning students do in schools is important learning.

However, this is not the only learning students do. They learn from their parents and other family members, from friends, coaches, a range of community organisations, from the media - as well as by thinking, writing, reading, talking, listening, doing and experimenting.

Some of the tasks below are homework (work that teachers set and expect students to complete) while other tasks will involve home learning and are encouraged by the school.

- completion of teacher-set tasks;
- revision of work done in class;
- self-set revision of areas of weakness;
- general reading;
- reading/research on areas related to class work, e.g. in newspapers magazines, source books;
- original/personal writing in for example, a journal;
- drafting, revision, and editing of assignment work;
- study for tests;
- note-making;
- preparation of questions for subsequent lessons;
- preparation for seminars, class performances, and group discussions;
- reflection on learning and other school experiences;
- watching T.V. news/selected quality programs;
- planning for school activities;
- rehearsals for school plays, e.g. learning lines, songs, music;
- physical exercise/training;
- oral language other than English exercises;
- listening to quality radio;
- skills practice.

Even if a teacher does not set specific homework on a given day, students will nonetheless **always** have something useful they could do and which will contribute to their learning.

If a student is having difficulty completing a task he/she is encouraged to discuss with the class teacher. This could include understanding the task, how much time should be spent on the task, how to organise themselves, how to organise for a group project.

If a student is concerned about having too much homework he/she should discuss with parents, talk to the class teacher, and/or the Executive Teacher of the area.

PARENT STATEMENT



Parents can help their child's learning by:

- providing an atmosphere helpful to orderly homework/home study
- monitoring the amount of homework given and the amount of time their child spends doing homework
- using your student's assessment calendar to encourage students to start work early
- focusing on helping students to develop choice, autonomy and independent learning
- encouraging the child to ask the teacher for support if required
- acknowledging effort rather than achievement. "Failing" at something is how we learn
- contacting the classroom teacher if there is lack of clarity about homework e.g. if the child is unclear about what they are being asked to do
- contacting class teachers and/or the Year Coordinator if the amount of homework causes concern
- contacting class teachers and/or the Year Coordinator if the student is suffering stress or concern
- showing a genuine but not obtrusive interest in what is being done and how well
- working to encourage their child to develop choice, autonomy and independent learning
- where possible providing information, resources, and constructive advice and suggestions, as well as proofreading, hearing work etc.
- supporting home learning whenever possible by talking , reading and showing interest in all the child's activities
- recognising that people have to make choices in life. Having commitments outside school may affect grades in school. However, the general well-being of students is extremely important and nothing is more important than keeping healthy and happy.

