



# Cairns State High School

## Student Homework Policy

# 1. RATIONALE

Homework provides students with the 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. Homework is:

- Work that enhances student learning
- Purposeful and relevant to students needs
- Appropriate to the phase of learning (middle and senior)
- Appropriate to the capability of the student
- Develops the student's independence as a learner
- Varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- Work that allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities.
- Revision and reflection of activities to consolidate learning
- Applying knowledge and skills in new contexts
- Pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively
- Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning

Homework includes the extension of classwork, independent reading, projects and research, study including preparation for future lessons. Each faculty and subject will have its own requirements for the type of homework that will be set. For further information, please consult with the relevant Head of Department or class teacher.

# 2. RESPONSIBILITIES

## Teachers

Teachers 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 students' learning needs.
- 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.

## **Students**

Students take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- maintaining a diary to record homework tasks in
- 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.
- making corrections to their homework when it is marked, to enhance their understanding and assist them with future tasks
- revising their homework and classwork regularly to enhance their understanding and learning

## **The role of parents and caregivers with homework**

Parents and caregivers help their children by:

- 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 spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities
- periodically monitoring their child's homework diary ensuring that homework is being set, recorded and completed.
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.

### 3. AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK

#### *Middle Phase (year 8 and 9)\**

Homework in Year 8 and 9 could be up to but generally not more than **5 hours per week**

\*Homework may include daily independent reading, be coordinated across different subject areas and include extension of classwork, projects and research. Any tasks set could complement work undertaken in class and give students more responsibility for their own learning.

#### *Senior Phase (year 10, 11 and 12)\**

It is anticipated that students will complete homework on a regular basis. The amount of time devoted to homework and independent study will vary according to the student's learning needs and individual program of learning. These are determined by their SET plans.

\* 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. 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.

\*Each faculty has its own requirements on the type of homework for each subject to be given to students. Please consult with the relevant curriculum Head of Department or class teacher for details.

#### *Recognition of Difference*

Cairns State High is an inclusive school that recognises the need for students with a verified disability to have negotiated homework. Special Education teachers will liaise with parents/carers and staff to assess the appropriateness and the type of homework to be required of individual students.

### 4. CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLETE HOMEWORK

Under the **Education (General Provisions) Regulations 2000:**

A student may be detained for wilful neglect to prepare homework for a period of **20 minutes** during the **lunch recess or one half hour after the school program is finished.**

Cairns State High School will enforce a detention as described above for failure to complete homework. This will normally be actioned by the relevant **class teacher.**

The **Cairns State High School Behaviour Management Plan** will be followed and parents will be notified by phone or letter if failure to complete homework becomes a regular occurrence.