

Cairns State High School Student Homework Policy

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:

- A task that enhances student learning;
- Purposeful and relevant to students' needs;
- Age-appropriate;
- Develops student independence as a learner;
- Varied, challenging and clearly related to class work;
- Revision and reflection of activities to consolidate learning; and
- Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning.

Homework includes the revision of previous work, independent reading, class reading, research, completing classwork, projects, practice exams, and study including preparation for future lessons. Each faculty and subject will have its own requirements for the type of homework that will be set.

RESPONSIBILITIES

TEACHERS

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

- Implementing the school's homework policy;
- setting homework on a regular basis;
- communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework;
- checking homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback;
- supporting organisational and time-management skills;
- communicating any developing problems concerns with parents and carers.

STUDENTS

Students take responsibility for their own learning by:

- maintaining a diary to record homework tasks in;
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames;
- following up on comments made by teachers and seeking help when difficulties arise;
- organising time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment;
- revising homework and classwork regularly to enhance their understanding and learning.

PARENTS AND CARERS

Parents and caregivers help their children by:

- 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 reading;
- 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



Junior School (Year 7 & 8)

Homework in Year 7 and 8 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.

Intermediate (Year 9 and 10)

Students are engaging in more subject choice and variation in the course plan can vary from one student to another. Homework needs to be planned at this phase and monitored closely as students are forming habits which will be difficult to change later on in their school life. Around one hour for English, Mathematics and Science each per week would be an expectation of all students. Other subjects will vary depending on their lesson load in the timetable. Students can budget on around 1.5-2 hours per night or at least 8-10 hours a week depending on the academic demands of the subject programme..

Senior Phase (Year 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.

Students in this phase should be independent in their homework habits. Students engaging in an IB Diploma or ATAR programme can expect to study for 12 hours/week minimum to achieve maximum outcomes of performance. 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.

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.

Non-completion or incomplete homework

The school's Responsible Behaviour and Wellbeing plan supports the practice of completing homework. Teachers will implement a number of strategies to ensure that a student gains maximum benefit from set homework tasks including, but not limited to the following responses:

- communication with home;
- counselling;
- provision of voluntary/required tutorial time;
- meeting with stakeholders including parents/carers, HOD and DP;
- detention following the class (at break);
- after-school detentions (generally for non-submission of drafts and/or final assignments and/or repeated incomplete homework);
- other negotiated consequences.

Last reviewed 10/09/2018

C Zilm

Executive Principal

