

Achieving best practice

Teachers' responsibilities are:

- to differentiate based on the needs of students
- to prepare homework tasks which are varied, challenging, meaningful, related to class work and which suit learning needs
- to give students enough time to complete homework, considering family obligations and extracurricular activities
- to provide timely and practical feedback where necessary
- to teach students to make effective use of homework diaries
- to coordinate the allocation of homework with other teachers
- to help students to develop organisational and time management skills
- to ensure parents and carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- to implement the policy and adhere to the guidelines

Students' responsibilities are:

- to take responsibility for their own learning
- to value learning outside the classroom as a valid and powerful part of their own education
- to complete tasks as required on time to enhance their learning
- to accept responsibility by:
 - being aware of the school's homework policy
 - discussing homework expectations with parents or carers
 - completing homework tasks within set timeframes
 - following up on feedback given by teachers
 - seeking assistance when difficulties arise
 - organising their time to manage family commitments, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part time employment as appropriate

Parents' responsibilities are:

- to encourage and value learning and to be involved in their children's educational process
- to encourage their children to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- to encourage their children to develop a regular time to complete homework and to adapt this time if circumstances alter
- to encourage their children to take responsibility for their learning and for their homework and to support their children's completion of homework without doing it for them
- to check whether homework has been set and to encourage their children to keep a homework diary
- to ask how class learning and homework is progressing, to discuss the associated challenges and successes and to help their children by discussing key questions or directing them to resources identified by their teachers
- to help their children to reflect on the effectiveness of their decisions and choices about which tasks to tackle first and when to complete homework
- to help their children to achieve a healthy balance between the amount of time spent on homework and other important, recreational activities
- to talk with teachers to discuss problems or concerns with learning at school, or with set homework



School-specific Homework Guidelines

The following guidelines are framed by the understanding that each of our students, as an individual, is progressing towards achieving and then exercising independence as a learner. We take every care to meet the learning needs of our students as individuals at every step along their journey from Preparatory to Year 12.

We are also mindful of the significant transitions our students experience as they move from school to school within the College. Students will experience different expectations regarding homework as part of these transitions. Led by Heads of School, teachers work together to ensure that our students are well prepared to meet the challenges associated with these transitions. We aim to prepare students at every stage to develop skills which strengthen their capacity to embrace change with confidence and to see it as a part of life.

Junior Schools

Daily home reading forms a significant part of our Homework Guidelines. It is expected that students will practise their reading skills through the Home Reading Program. Students will bring home a book that has been carefully selected, based on a specific set of criteria which will ensure that individual needs are taken into consideration.

Students participating in the instrumental program are expected to undertake regular practice. The instrumental teacher will provide guidance regarding the content and the duration of the practice.

To assist the students to share and develop their knowledge beyond the classroom, communication about the curriculum being taught will be made available on a weekly basis. Specific examples of ideas for homework activities that will support areas of the curriculum being taught that week will be provided. Parents are asked to acknowledge that they have read the weekly homework slip by signing it in their child's diary.

These learning beyond the classroom activities:

- will reinforce and enhance concepts being taught that week in literacy, numeracy and the inquiry unit
- are not compulsory tasks
- do not replace home reading as the most important activity for the children to be doing on a daily basis
- are meant to provide a prompt or a guide only – families will make their own choices about what is suitable for them
- will not be "one size fits all" worksheets
- will generally not be pencil and paper tasks
- will not be corrected by teachers

Provision will be made for additional support where there is need in a specific area. This will be negotiated between parents and the teacher.

Middle Schools

- Homework must be flexible enough to accommodate individual developmental stages
- There must be a clear purpose and valid reason for any homework that is set
- Quality rather than quantity is important
- There must be consistency within a year level and coordination across subjects
- Homework will include daily independent reading
- Homework will encourage application and consolidation of classroom learning through review, practice and revision
- Homework may provide opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons
- Homework may include research for classwork
- Homework may include additional work if there is a need identified for a student to catch up on unfinished or missed class work
- Assessment tasks will not be set solely as homework. However, parts of an assessment task, such as research, may be done at home
- Homework will not be given which is due the next day, unless it should have been completed during class time

If a student is unable to complete homework in spite of the effort made, parents are asked to sign the diary indicating that he/she has worked conscientiously for a set time. Not all students work at the same pace.

It is expected that the students feel comfortable with the homework requirements and enjoy the challenges that they have been set.

Should a child continue to have difficulty meeting the homework requirements we would recommend that parents contact the child's teacher.

Year 9 ~ Canowindra

- There must be a clear purpose and valid reason for any homework that is set
- Quality rather than quantity is important
- There must be equity between key learning areas
- Self directed study is an essential component of the homework program at this level and opportunity for this should take priority
- Assessment tasks should not be set as homework, although parts of the task, such as research, may be done at home
- Homework must be flexible enough to accommodate individual developmental stages, family commitments and extracurricular commitments
- To allow students to develop planning and time management skills, homework should not be given which is due the next day

Senior School

- Please refer to the Senior School Handbook for information about study expectations.