



Whitfield State School Homework Policy

Introduction:

Homework is a topic of media, academic, parental, and community interest. Many argue both for and against. Some long-term effects of homework on academic achievement and learning include an improved attitude towards school, better study habits and skills, and the encouragement of learning during leisure time. Non-academic long-term effects include improved self-direction and self-discipline, better time organisation, more inquisitiveness, and enhanced independent problem solving. Homework can help to develop good work habits and job management skills for later in life.

Queensland Parliamentary Library – Homework for the 21st Century, 2007

From Department of Education and Training, Queensland (DET):

[policy-homework](http://education.qld.gov.au)

<http://education.qld.gov.au> » curriculum » framework » p-12 » docs

Schools are required to develop a Homework policy in consultation with the school community to ensure that:

- **consistent and effective implementation** occurs **throughout the school** – including a consistent approach to the amount of time students are to spend in completing homework (at particular year levels and in particular learning areas).
- the amount of **homework is balanced** across all learning areas to allow sufficient time for family, recreation, and community and cultural activities.
- students are **not disadvantaged** by the lack of access to resources such as computers and the internet outside school.
- homework is effective in **supporting learning.**'

We believe that homework is most effective when it:

- is clearly **related** to class work.
- is **appropriate** to particular years of schooling.
- is **varied and differentiated** to individual learning needs.
- **consolidates, revises and/or applies** students' classroom learning.
- **develops students' independence** as a learner through extension activities such as investigating, researching, writing, designing, making.
- assists students to **prepare for upcoming classroom learning**, such as collecting relevant materials and information, completing surveys and audits.
- is **monitored** by the teacher.

Homework Guide:

- **Reading** must be included as part of homework requirements in every year level.
- Students reading **below PM Level 28** should be provided with home reading materials at their level.
- Students reading **at and above PM Level 28** should select a suitable book from the library for home reading. Some kind of response to the text should be included as part of the reading homework.
- **Other homework** could include- relevant Mathematics/English/Science activities that are related to topics currently under study, or preparation of projects/assignments
- Teachers should ensure that they effectively **communicate with parents** about the purpose that they wish homework to achieve and the type of support they would like parents to provide.
- Teachers should provide **a variety of homework** to suit a range of educational purposes and to increase student interest in their homework. These homework tasks should be compatible with the approaches to teaching and learning employed in the classroom and should avoid being set on the assumption that 'the more homework the better.' An example would be to set a compulsory core of homework each week with a number of options from which students could choose. This would give students the opportunity to organise their time and to develop study skills.
- Teachers should provide meaningful **feedback** on students' work.

Homework Time Guide:

Homework not to be given on weekends or holiday periods.

- Prep – Year 1 – up to 15 minutes per school day, 4 days per week
- Year 2 – Year 3 – up to 30 minutes per school day, 4 days per week
- Year 4 – Year 5 – up to 45 minutes per school day, 4 days per week
- Year 6 – up to 1 hour per school day, 4 days per week