



HOMWORK POLICY

In determining homework Coolum School acknowledges that students may be engaging in many different activities outside of school. These include a range of physical activities and sports, recreational and cultural pursuits. We encourage students to develop patterns of time management that enable them to complete tasks.

In the Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3) many activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills.

Homework tasks may include:

- daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or other family members
- linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- conversations about what is happening at school
- preparation for oral presentations
- opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.

In the Prep Year, generally students will not be set homework however they will have home reading books in Semester 2 to encourage shared reading.

In Years 1, 2 and 3, set homework could be up to but generally not more than 1 hour per week.

In the Middle Phase, Year 4 -7 at Coolum School, some homework can be completed daily or over a weekly or fortnightly period and may:

- include daily independent reading
- be coordinated across different subject areas
- include extension of class work, projects and research.

Homework in Years 4-7 could be up to but generally not more than 2 hours per week. If students are taking longer to complete their homework or are distressed due to homework requirements parents or caregivers need to inform the teacher.

Role of parents and caregivers with homework

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- reading to them, 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
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.

Homework

Homework in State Schools:

Homework provides students with 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. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation, cultural and employment where appropriate.

Homework that enhances student learning:

- is purposeful and relevant to students needs
- is appropriate to the phase of learning (early, middle and senior)
- is appropriate to the capability of the student
- develops the student's independence as a learner
- is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities

Please note that homework is NOT a teaching tool but a **reinforcing tool** and that homework for the sake of homework must never be set. Homework should be set which on average would take three nights per week to complete. This allows children to meet many other extra curricular obligations. If projects are being undertaken then homework should be reduced accordingly.