



# Mossman State High School

## HOMWORK POLICY

Updated Semester 1 2021



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 (early, 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.

Homework includes the extension of classwork, independent reading, projects and research, study and preparation for future lessons (getting organised). It promotes the engagement of independent learning.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

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

#### Students

Students can 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; and
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

#### Teachers

Teachers can 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;
- setting homework that is varied, challenging, directly related to class work, appropriate to students' learning needs;
- explicitly 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; and
- discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.

#### Amount of Homework

**Junior Secondary (Years 7, 8 and 9)** Homework in Years 7, 8 and 9 could be up to but generally not more than **5 hours per week**.

*This equates to approximately 15 minutes per subject a night (students have 4 subjects a day) each week night.*

**Senior Secondary (Years 10, 11 and 12)** The amount of time devoted to homework and independent study will vary according to the student's learning needs and individual program of learning.

#### 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.
- Mossman State High School will enforce a detention as described above for failure to complete homework. Parents will be notified by phone or letter if failure to complete homework becomes a regular occurrence.