

HOMework POLICY



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.

What is Homework?

- Work that enhances student learning
- Purposeful and relevant to students needs
- Appropriate to the capability of the student
- Develops the student's independence as a learner
- Varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- Work which allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities
- Homework includes the extension of class work, independent reading, projects and research, study and preparation of future lessons (getting organised). It promotes the engagement of independent learning.

Purpose: Homework can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- Revision and reflection to consolidate learning
- Applying knowledge and skills in new contexts
- Pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively
- Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning

RESPONSIBILITIES

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
- using homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students learning needs
- explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through homework
- considering other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework
- discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their 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 caregiver's 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
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment

Parent/Carer: The Parent/Carer 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

AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK

Junior Schooling Phase - Year 7, 8 & 9

Homework in Year 7, Year 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.

Year 10

The amount of time devoted to homework and independent study will vary according to the student's learning needs and individual program of learning.

Senior Phase - Year 11 & 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. These are determined during their SET plans.

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.

Innisfail State College will enforce a detention at recess or after school (parental permission will be sought first) 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.