

Mackay Central State School



Homework Policy

Homework not only helps students consolidate their classroom learning, it lays strong foundations for lifelong learning and encourages family members to become involved in student life.

When giving homework, teachers take into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation, cultural pursuits and employment where appropriate.

Homework that enhances student learning:

- is purposeful and relevant to students' needs
- is appropriate to the students age
- 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.

State school policies

Every Queensland state school is required to develop a homework policy in consultation with the school community, particularly the Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C).

Principals are required to distribute the school homework policy to staff, students, and parents and caregivers. They also ensure the homework policy is effectively implemented throughout the school, and include an up-to-date school homework policy as part of their annual school reporting.

Teachers are required to set homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs. Teachers check homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback. They are also required to discuss with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggest strategies to assist with their homework.

Homework guidelines emphasis helping students establish a positive routine of regular, independent study, without going overboard.

Helping students take responsibility for their own learning

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by setting homework on a regular basis, explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through homework, while clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework.

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing homework expectations with their parents or caregivers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set timeframes
- 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.

How can you help your children to learn?

Through their Parents and Citizens' Association, parents can have a key role in the development of a school's homework policy.

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 complete homework tasks by discussing key questions, or directing them to resources
- encouraging them to take responsibility for their learning and organisation of time
- encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- helping them balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities, or working part-time, and
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.

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Regulation 19 of the State Education Act states:

“A teacher may require a pupil to undertake home study which may occupy such an amount of time as a Principal may decide is reasonable in the circumstances.”

The regulation does not direct the school to set home study/homework nor does it state what, if any, that home study/homework should be.

At Mackay Central State School teachers believe it is beneficial for students to complete some homework on a regular basis and will set homework using the following reasonable guidelines. Times indicated are considered **the maximum expectation** for that Year level on the understanding that students work diligently for the prescribed period of time.

- Prep & Year 1: up to 10 minutes per day
- Year 2-3: up to 15 minutes per day
- Year 4-5: up to 20 minutes per day
- Year 6-7: up to 25 minutes per day
- No homework is to be set on weekends
- No homework is to be set for vacation periods

General Understandings

- Homework is not to be used as a punishment.
- All written homework is to be corrected.
- Homework is not a teaching tool. It is to be used to consolidate learning done in class.
- Homework should be within a child's capabilities, adjusted accordingly.
- Work that is to be used for assessment is not to be set for homework.

Types of Homework:

- Practising “Sight Words”, reading a book
- Completion of, or practice related to work done in class (written homework).
- Preparing for school the next day (equipment, pads etc)
- Collecting materials for school activities (magazines, cooking materials).
- Learning tasks (Spelling, Number facts).
- Discussing what happens at school with parents.

Homework Difficulties

Parents should consult with their child's teacher when the completion of homework within the set time periods (see above) becomes a concern.

Teachers will contact parents and carers when children regularly or consistently fail to complete homework to ascertain reasons for homework not being completed and/or to gain support to encourage children to complete set homework.