



Atherton State High School Homework Policy

Homework is an integral part of study, developing habits and skills of independent work, self-directed learning and application necessary for vocational and personal development throughout life. These habits should be established in Junior Secondary and built upon through to Year 12.

The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, sport, culture, recreation and part-time employment where appropriate.

Homework is:

- Work that enhances student learning
- Purposeful and relevant to students needs
- Appropriate to the phase of learning
- 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, assignments, study and preparation for future lessons (getting organised). It promotes the engagement of independent learning.

AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK

Junior Secondary (Years 7, 8 and 9)

Homework in Years 7, 8 and 9 could be up to but 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. Some students may, of their own undertaking, elect to spend longer than this.

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.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers:

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- Ensuring their school's Homework Policy is implemented
- Setting homework at regular intervals as determined by the teacher
- 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
- Giving consideration to 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 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
- Organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment

Parents and caregivers:

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- 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 paid work commitments
- Contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework

Failure to complete homework:

Failure to complete homework on a regular basis could result in one of the following:

- Letter to parent/caregivers
- Parent/student/teacher meeting
- Referral to Head of Department or student services support staff
- Completion in recess time