



# Homework Policy

## 1. Rationale

**Quality** homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, develop positive behaviours for lifelong learning beyond school 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 pursuits and employment where appropriate.

The amount of homework that should be done is different from one student to the next. In order to be **Sustainable**, homework depends upon factors such as the student's age, their ability, health status, emergent situations, the subject matter being studied and the purpose of the homework.

The responsibility for homework in the secondary school shifts from that which is mostly set by the teacher in the younger years to that which is mostly regulated by the student in the later years.

## 2. Policy

At Yeronga SHS we believe homework that enhances student learning is -

a) about the learner:

- being purposeful and relevant to students' needs
- being appropriate to the particular years of schooling
- allowing for commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities
- developing behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom
- developing independence as a learner through extension activities such as investigating, researching, writing, designing, making.

b) connected to the classroom:

- being clearly related to class activities by revising or applying classroom learning
- assisting students to prepare for upcoming learning through activities such as collecting relevant materials and information, completing surveys and audits
- providing time to work on assessment tasks
- being monitored by the teacher.

In order for students to complete homework to meet learning and assessment deadlines, teachers may use strategies including contacting parents/carers and setting detention.

## 3. Homework Guidelines

While homework should occur regularly the amount of time that needs to be committed will vary from week to week. The homework load will fluctuate depending upon:

- the combination of subjects which require preparation for tests or assignments, rehearsal or practice time, organisation of materials or equipment
- the approaching deadlines for exams and assignments

Weekly minimum homework guidelines for student are:

- years 7&8, 30-60 minutes per school day
- years 9&10, 60-90 minutes per school day
- years 11&12, 90-120 minutes per school day

In order to adequately plan for these fluctuations in the homework time required each day, students should make good use of the following:

- the **Student Planner** which contains daily, weekly and term study plans
- **Subject Course Outlines** which indicate what is being studied each week
- **Semester Assessment Outlines** which indicate due dates for all assessment.

#### 4. Responsibilities

**HODs and Curriculum Leaders** help teachers to identify:

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

- 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
- teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills
- giving consideration to other academic and personal 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.
- using a range of strategies to assist in the completion of homework including contact with parents and carers and lunchtime detention

**Students** can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- 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 carers** 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
- providing a distraction free space at home where homework can be completed
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.