

## **Coomera Springs State School: Homework Policy**

Our school supports homework being regularly set in Years 1 to 7, and occasionally in Prep during Semester 2. We support the set homework being consistent with the best practice guidelines detailed below. However, in recognition of other demands on our students, we support individual students, with parent support, formally “opting out” of the set homework.

Where students (with their parent’s permission and support) commit to complete the set homework, and it is not regularly completed, we support the following consequences:

- parent contact
- student detention to complete (20 minutes at lunchtime or after school with 24 hours notice to parent)
- student removal from the set homework program for the rest of the term

### **Why we set homework?**

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. When homework is set, it will take into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation, and cultural activities where appropriate.

We believe that homework that enhances student learning:

- is purposeful and relevant to students needs
- is appropriate to the phase of learning (early and middle)
- 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, family and cultural activities.

### **Our set homework will be appropriate to particular Phases of Learning**

In the **Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3)** many activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills.

Homework tasks in Prep to Year 3 may include:

- daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or other family members
- linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- conversations about what is happening at school
- preparation for oral presentations
- opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.

In the Prep Year, generally students will not be set homework until Semester 2, and then only occasionally, and not more than 30 minutes per week.

In Years 1, 2 and 3, set homework could be up to but generally not more than 1 hour per week.

In the **Middle Phase (Year 4 to Year 9)** some homework can be completed daily, weekly or longer period and may:

- include daily independent reading
- be coordinated across different subject areas
- include extension of class work, projects and research.

Homework in Year 4 and Year 5 could be up to but generally not more than 2-3 hours per week.

Homework in Year 6 and Year 7 could be up to but generally not more than 3-4 hours per week.

The suggestions above are a guide in determining the amount of set homework that our students might be expected to undertake. Parents may consult with a student's teacher to request additional materials or practice exercises which they can assist their child with at home.

### **We will consider students' other commitments when setting homework**

In determining homework, we believe it is important to acknowledge that some of our students may be engaging in many different and valuable activities outside of school. These may include a range of physical activities and sports, recreational and cultural

pursuits. Some students may have responsibilities as caregivers. We support these students, with parent permission, “opting out” of the set homework.

### **We will use varied and challenging homework appropriate to students' learning needs**

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

- revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practising for mastery)
- applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue)
- pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making)
- preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information).

### **Responsibilities**

Our Principal should:

- develop our school homework policy, in consultation with our school community
- distribute our school homework policy through school website and appropriate handbooks
- ensure our homework policy is effectively implemented throughout the school
- include an up-to-date school homework policy as part of the annual school reporting (published on our website).

Our teachers should:

- ensure our school's homework policy is implemented
- clearly communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
- liaise with students and parents to determine who has “opted out” of homework
- set homework on a regular basis
- check homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback
- use homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs
- explicitly teach strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and provide opportunities to practice these strategies through homework
- give consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework
- discuss with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.

Our students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of our 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.

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

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

Our 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 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.