

Trinity Bay State High School - Junior Secondary – Homework Policy

At Trinity Bay State High School, we consider homework to be an essential part of all students achieving their potential. 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. 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. Homework that enhances student learning:

- is purposeful and relevant to students needs
- is appropriate to the phase of learning (Junior Secondary)
- 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.

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).

Implementing the school homework policy

Regular monitoring and collaboration amongst teachers will ensure consistent and effective implementation of the school homework policy.

RESPONSIBILITIES (Teachers)

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

- ensuring their school's homework policy is implemented
- setting homework when appropriate
- 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 organisation 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.

RESPONSIBILITIES (Students)

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 feedback and 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.

RESPONSIBILITIES (Parents and Caregivers)

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- talking with them and involving them in tasks at home
- 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 the homework and their children's approach to the homework.

Considering students' other commitments when setting homework

In determining homework, it is important for teachers and parents to acknowledge that students may be engaging in many different activities outside of school. These include a range of physical activities and sports, recreational and cultural pursuits. Older students may also have part-time employment. Some students have responsibilities as caregivers.

Homework appropriate to particular phases of learning (Junior Secondary)

The following is to operate as a guide in determining the amount of set homework that students might be expected to undertake. It is of course open to parents to consult with a student's teacher about additional materials or practise exercises with which parents can assist their children at home.

In the Junior Secondary Phase (Years 7, 8 and 9) some homework can be completed daily or over a weekly or fortnightly period and may:

- include daily independent reading
- be coordinated across different subject areas
- include extension of class work, assignments, study time for upcoming tests, projects and research.

Time Guidelines

Homework in Year 7 could be up to - but generally not more than - 30 minutes per week (per subject). In Year 8 and Year 9 students should be given more responsibility for their own learning. They can be required to engage in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class. Homework in Year 8 and Year 9 could be up to - but generally not more than - 45 minutes per week (per subject).

It is useful to think of homework as being one of three types:

1. **Set Tasks** – short exercises set by the teacher to follow up the day's work or to prepare for work to be studied. This might even include some flipped learning – where students are asked to engage with a Clickview video whose contents will be discussed further in class next lesson.
2. **Assignments** – a key part of assessment for a unit of work. Time will be allocated both in class and at home for their completion.
3. **Study** – It is recommended that you spend some time each evening reviewing the work covered during the day and preparing for your classes the next day. Sometimes, this study becomes very purposeful, because the student has an upcoming exam.

Generally, homework may include all, or some, of the following:

- Set written tasks
- Set study tasks
- Independent study
- Assignment preparation/completion
- Examination preparation
- Reading.

For home learning to be effective students should:

- have a regular routine and time
- develop a weekly home learning planner (modify it after two weeks if there are problems)
- have an area where they can learn without unnecessary distractions
- have a short break every 45-60 minutes
- focus on what they are doing
- ask for teacher assistance, if after reading and thinking about a section of work, they still have difficulty understanding it.

Non-Completion of Homework

Students who do not complete homework will be monitored and supported by their class teacher. Where necessary, students who do not complete set homework on a regular basis, and who do not have an acceptable reason, may be dealt with by the teacher or the school under the Trinity Bay SHS Student Code of Conduct.

Policy References: Department of Education, Training and the Arts – Curriculum and Assessment Framework
<https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/stages-of-schooling/p-12>