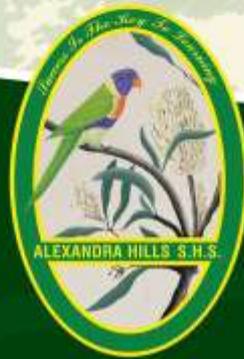


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HOMEWORK POLICY



May 2013

Homework

The following favourable factors should be present for effective homework and study:

- (a) a clear understanding of the work set
- (b) necessary materials on hand
- (c) quiet and freedom from interruption
- (d) interested support from parents
- (e) an element of 'success' for the student.

Co-operation between parents and teachers is essential to effective home study.

Homework should be purposeful. Some of the major purposes of worthy homework are as follows:

- To stimulate voluntary effort, initiative, independence, responsibility and self direction.
- To encourage a carry-over of worthwhile school activities into permanent leisure interests.
- To enrich the school experience through related home activities.
- To reinforce school learning by providing the necessary practice, integration and application.

Thus a teacher might set homework to:

- (a) consolidate class learning;
- (b) to reinforce work covered in class;
- (c) to revise prior to examinations;
- (d) for practice - practical application of skills learned in class;
- (e) for purposes of research to extend students;
- (f) research of assignments;
- (g) preparation of assignments.

Some recommendations that teachers should consider when assigning homework are:

- (a) clarity of instructions;
- (b) development of study skills;
- (c) provision of time for other activities;
- (d) more time for guided study in school;
- (e) more student initiative and freedom;
- (f) more meaningful and useful study;
- (g) individualised homework.

Homework is usually that work which is specifically set by the teacher. However, by secondary school, all students should be expected to develop independent study skills.

Homework may be:

- (a) Continuation of work done in class, eg., finishing exercises, solving mathematical problems, etc.
- (b) Learning 'by rote' some basic facts.
- (c) Reading.
- (d) Summarising.
- (e) Practical application of work completed in class.
- (f) Preparation for experiments or practicals to be held in the next lessons.
- (g) Continuation of homework set for a week.
- (h) General study.
- (i) Revision.
- (j) Working on assignments.

All students must keep an official school homework diary. This diary should be taken to all lessons. Teachers should check regularly to ensure that homework is being recorded.

The following minimum times give a guide to what is expected of students:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| • Year 8 | 5 hours / week or 1 hour per night. |
| • Year 9 | 8 hours / week or 1.5 hours per night. |
| • Year 10 | 10 hours / week or 2 hours per night. |
| • Year 11/12 | 12 hours / week or 2.5 hours per night. |

The amount of homework set must be in accord with the overall amount of time allocated to that subject. In the teaching program, eg., a subject with only three periods per week should not set homework equivalent to a five period subject.

Keeping in mind the number of subjects studied at each year level, the following could be considered to be an AVERAGE HOMEWORK TIME ALLOCATION PER CLASS PER PERIOD.

YEAR 8	-	10 MINUTES
YEAR 9	-	15 MINUTES
YEAR 10	-	20 MINUTES
YEAR 11	-	30 MINUTES
YEAR 12	-	30 MINUTES

If students finish homework before the suggested time, then the remainder of the time should be spent on effective study.

Classroom teachers should develop efficient mechanisms for checking that students have completed homework. Appropriate measures should be taken with those students who have failed to complete homework tasks (eg detentions).

Monitoring of Homework:

To be effective, homework should be checked each lesson by:

- (a) Simple show of books.
- (b) Testing - short written test.
- (c) Verbal Testing.
- (d) Collection of books/papers of correction by teacher.
- (e) Collection of Assignments.
- (f) Random inspection of students' books.
- (g) Student self-checking.

In the event of a student repeatedly failing to do set homework, the classroom teacher should send home the official school proforma, which advises parents of the situation. This letter is to be signed by the HOD.