



Belmore Boys' High School Homework Policy

Revision Date: Term 2, 2013

Future Revision Date: Term 2, 2014

Rationale

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.

Aims

To support and extend classroom learning

To develop positive study habits

To develop responsibility for self learning

General Expectations

1. All students will complete appropriate homework regularly
2. Homework should help each student maximise course learning outcomes
3. Time spent on homework should take into account students' other commitments, such as sport, part-time employment and home responsibilities
4. Teachers will set quality homework, mark it and provide feedback and encouragement to students.
5. Teachers will monitor homework /assignments and will normally provide constructive feedback within 2 weeks of the due date
6. Teachers will maintain records of work completed for assessment and reporting purposes
7. Teachers will ensure that students record homework in their diaries
8. Teachers will ensure that each set task is purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum
9. Where appropriate teachers will devise homework activities which are interesting, challenging and open-ended
10. Teachers are to notify parents if homework or assignments are repeatedly unsatisfactory or not completed, recording the notification in RISC
11. The school will work in partnership with parents and students to ensure that homework is of maximum benefit for students
12. The school will provide all students with homework diaries
13. The school will provide a free homework centre two afternoons each week

To help parents can:

- Take an active interest in your child's homework.
- Support your child in setting aside time each day for homework.
- Provide a dedicated place for homework and study if possible.
- Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work/diary if requested, and be aware of the amount of homework set.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or their child's approach to homework.
- Encourage their children to read and take an interest in current events.
- Alert the school to any domestic circumstances or extra curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked.

Four types of homework

1. **Practice Exercises** help students to remember and practice newly acquired skills - such as memorising mathematical tables, practising spelling words, writing essays and reading for pleasure.
2. **Preparatory Homework** requires students to source and read background information to prepare them for future lessons on a specific subject - such as reading an article on the Gold Rush in preparation for a lesson in Australian history.
3. **Extension Assignments** encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Assignments may include writing a book review, researching local news or retrieving items from the Internet.
4. **Unfinished Classroom Activities**
It is commonplace for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks

Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8) Expectations

Homework will consist of a mixture of the four types of homework and include:

- Revision of each day's work as part of their homework program
- Independent reading on a daily basis

Students will usually spend between 45 and 90 minutes per day completing homework. To avoid excessive student workloads, teachers must be flexible in the timing of their homework. They may set homework during weekends.

Stage 5 and 6 (Years 9 – 12) Expectations

Homework will consist of a mixture of the four types of homework and include:

- Reading, research, assignments, assessment tasks and independent projects
- Assessment tasks will be issued as formal written notification two weeks in advance of the date due

Homework schedules may be discussed with each student individually in roll call tutorial periods, with opportunities being provided for parents to discuss homework issues with the school

Students will be provided with formal opportunities to build organisational and planning skills

Homework will generally increase from 90 minutes to 3 hours per weeknight with up to 6 hours on weekends during peak HSC periods