



DALBY STATE HIGH SCHOOL

School Homework Policy

Dalby State High School values the importance of homework within the school curriculum. 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. It is aimed at promoting sound study habits and developing student independence and initiative. The amount of homework that is expected takes into account the need for students and families to have a balanced lifestyle. Our policy complies with Education Queensland Homework Guidelines (P-12 Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework - <http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/framework/p-12/index.html>).

Suitable Homework

Homework at Dalby SHS enhances student learning. Suitable homework:

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

Recording Homework

Upon enrolment at Dalby SHS, all students are issued with a Student Diary. Recording of homework is essential for time-management and being prepared for the school day.

All formal homework set by classroom teachers is to be recorded in the Student Diary. The Diary may be checked by a member of teaching staff to ensure that homework is being recorded.

Duration of Homework

As a guide, students should aim to dedicate the following time for homework, including work on assignments, each school night:

Junior Secondary

- Year 7: 45 – 60 min/night
- Years 8 & 9: 60 – 75 min/night (including time required to engage in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class)

Senior Secondary (Years 10-12)

Dalby State High School acknowledges that homework for senior secondary students varies significantly according to student's individual program of learning. This will be determined through their Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan.

Students aiming to enter university at the completion of Year 12 should be aiming to complete up to 600 minutes (10 hours) of homework per week through their senior phase of learning. This should include study sessions that review class work with the goal of recalling information and processes ready for exams. Ideally these sessions should be spaced throughout the week – not just one amount of time per subject. Distributing study over time aids retention of information.

The Role of Students with Homework

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 (including assignment check dates) 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.

The Role of Teachers with Homework

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

- ensuring their school's homework policy is implemented
- 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.
- explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational 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.

The Role of Parents and Caregivers with Homework

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- reading/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.

Consequences of Failing to Complete Prescribed Homework

Students who fail to complete prescribed homework disadvantage themselves as they may not be prepared for forthcoming classroom learning or may not be making suitable progress on assessment tasks.

Suitable consequences for failing to complete set homework tasks or assessment check dates may include, but is not limited to, detentions (lunch and/or after school) or referral to HOD/Guidance Officer/Admin (see Dalby SHS Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students for more details).

Balanced Lifestyle

Dalby SHS acknowledges students may be engaging in many different activities outside of school from sports, recreational and cultural pursuits. Senior Secondary students may also be involved in part-time work.

Students are expected to balance out-of-school commitments with their academic commitments. Care should be taken to ensure a balance is maintained between the various demands of study, sporting, recreational, cultural or part-time employment activities. Parents and students are encouraged to communicate, preferably in advance, with teachers regarding a student's additional commitments that may impact a student's ability to complete set homework tasks in the short-term.