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## Policy: Homework

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The following policy is taken from the Queensland DET guidelines on homework from the following source: <http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/pdf/homeworkpolicy.pdf>.

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of Darling Downs Christian School's Homework Policy is to ensure that homework supports the learning program of each student in a way that improves learning outcomes. It is intended to be consistent with the school's values including the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle, especially time for family activities as well as recreational activities and, where appropriate, opportunity for employment.

Learning is enhanced through homework which:

- has relevance to the students' needs and is therefore purposeful
- is appropriate to each child's phase of learning (early, middle and senior)
- accounts for the capabilities of the student
- supports independent learning
- is clearly related to class work.

### 2. Scope

The policy applies to students of Darling Downs Christian School.

### 3. Responsibility

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests initially with each classroom teacher. Ultimate responsibility for this policy falls within the terms of reference of the Academic Committee.

### 4. Time Guidelines

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 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.

In the Prep Year, generally students will not be set homework.

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 or over a weekly or fortnightly period and may include daily independent reading; 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.

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 5 hours per week.

In the **Senior Phase (Years 10, 11 and 12)** the amount of time devoted to homework and independent study will vary according to the student's learning needs and individual program of learning, determined through their Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan. Homework in Year 11 and 12 may take 1 – 2 hours daily, especially when completing scheduled assessment tasks.

## **5. Student responsibility**

Significant educational research has established the value while at school, and for future application within the workplace, of independent learning competency. Through routine completion of homework students develop responsibility for their own learning. To gain the greatest benefit students should:

- be familiar with the homework policy
- discuss homework and personal study schedules with parents and caregivers
- accept responsibility for completion of homework
- communicate with teachers when difficulties with homework arise
- manage time commitments which allow for family time, physical activity and other interests.

Policy approved by: School Staff Meeting

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