

Homework

Homework plays three major roles in a child's education. Firstly, it is used to reinforce work that has been covered recently at school. Secondly, it encourages the child to develop positive study habits, which are vital to success in higher education. Thirdly, and arguably the most important, homework provides an avenue where school and home can be linked. Parents can share in work that is most important to their child. Remember children spend six hours a day at school and the work they do at school is most important in their minds.

We all know that learning happens all of the time. Not just at school. Not just when we sit at a desk. Learning doesn't stop when children leave the school gates. Learning is **life long** and it should be exciting and meaningful! Family life, real life experiences and children's extra activities outside of school contribute greatly to a child's learning and development.

At Burpengary we know that families have busy lives. Parents work and students have many after school commitments. We feel that students need to be rewarded for the informal and formal learning they pursue outside school hours. This is our way of acknowledging the things they do as essential to their healthy overall development as unique individuals.

More information:

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- reading to them, 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

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 frame
- 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

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.

<http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/pdf/homeworkpolicy.pdf>