

Grafton High School



Homework Procedures

Implementation Date: Term 1, 2017

Policy statement:

The primary purpose of this policy is to ensure the homework that is implemented by teachers at Grafton High School meets the learning and wellbeing needs of the school's students. Of importance is ensuring the quality, manageability and the method in which homework is communicated to staff, students, parents and caregivers.

Rationale:

Homework is any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours (Harris Cooper, Jorgianne Civey Robinson, Erika A Patall, Does Homework Improve Academic Achievement? 2006 p.1).

Homework is to be implemented as part of a holistic learning experience which supports the pursuit of academic achievement. Homework is valued as an important addition for student learning and achievement. Homework includes set work, daily revision, preparation for future lessons, assignments and study for exams.

Homework at Grafton High School should be purposeful, engaging, challenging and relevant to course work. It will consist of task completion and consolidation of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in the classroom. This may involve practice, preparation, research and readings, extension and creative work. Homework may require students to engage in new learning in the case of assessment tasks and research projects.

Context:

Grafton High School is a large comprehensive school community that offers an extensive curriculum featuring a large and diverse choice of subjects from Years 7 to 12, a well resourced and locally supported vocational education program (Years 9 to 12), a support unit comprising 5 classes catering for students with disabilities and specialised support for learners of all abilities. The School's selective classes commenced in 2010, with the school being the only semi-selective high school on the north coast of NSW.

At Grafton High School, our purpose is to promote a school community (students, staff and parents/carers) that works together to achieve excellence. Our aim is to provide quality teaching and learning in a caring environment. We believe that through cooperation and respect for each other, we can all achieve great things. Grafton High School students are encouraged to respect others, take responsibility for their own learning and behavior, and to strive for excellence.

Implementation:

The New South Wales Department of Education and Communities states that the three key considerations for homework are 'Quality', 'Manageability' and 'Communication'

(https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/curriculum/schools/homework/Hwk_Res%20scan.pdf)

Quality

Effective homework tasks are:

- appropriate for each student's age and ability
- relevant to each student's needs and builds on work undertaken in class
- purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- varied and challenging, but achievable
- supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.

Manageability

Homework should:

- be manageable for both students and teachers
- take into account students' access to resources and technology
- be clearly communicated to students
- provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances
- consider students' other commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition outside of school hours, part-time employment and home responsibilities.

Communication

Communication means:

- collaboration in the development of the school's Homework Policy
- provision of clear information between teachers, parents/caregivers and students regarding homework expectations and the completion of tasks
- guidance and assistance for those having difficulties completing their homework.

Based on these principles, the Grafton High School Homework Policy is to be implemented as follows:

- Homework is any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours.
- The Grafton High School Homework Policy will be readily available to staff, student and parents/caregivers.
- Homework will be allocated with consideration to students' outside of school hours commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition, part time employment and home responsibilities. Adequate time should be allocated for the completion of homework. Demands for homework will increase as student's approach formal assessment periods and also as they progress through the stages of learning.
- A suggested guide for the amount of homework that could be given to students of Grafton High School is based on a 2006 Australian study. The study observed that the average amount of homework set for Australian students is a maximum of 30 minutes per day for students up to Year 4, escalating to around 45 to 90 minutes per day for Year 9 students. In Years 11 and 12, homework can involve from one to three hours per night, with a

further six hours on weekends during exam periods (Marionos, S., Homework: Do Kids Need It?', Good Medicine, March 2006, cited in Dixon, 2007).

- All set homework will be validated and marked, with feedback provided to students. The processes for marking may vary from formal marking by the teacher, peer marking, bookwork marking checks at the end of a unit of work through to informal self check processes. Feedback from the teacher may be verbal or written.
- Parents are encouraged to appreciate the link between the completion of homework and levels of academic achievement. Parents are encouraged to assist students by providing them with appropriate home study facilities. Parents and students are encouraged to seek clarification where necessary.
- Faculties must be aware of establishing a balance between assessment expectations and time requirements when establishing timeframes for homework tasks. This should be done in consultation with assessment task schedules across Key Learning Areas.
- The objectives of the homework set must be achievable by all students and considerate of their ability to access resources and the assistance they can obtain at home to complete tasks. Key Learning Areas should incorporate study/research skills into their programs to ensure that students are learning the skills that they will need to complete homework and assignments on their own.
- All assessable tasks to be completed at home must be a part of the assessment schedule for each Key Learning Area.
- Homework tasks should be focused on consolidating knowledge learned in class and developing the skills relevant to syllabus outcomes.

Monitoring, evaluation and review:

- The policy will be implemented within each Key Learning Area with Head Teachers responsible for monitoring its implementation. The Grafton High School Homework Policy should be consulted during the development of Scope and Sequences for each school year.
- The Grafton High School Homework Policy will be reviewed in line with the school's Strategic Plan, with a formal review to be conducted Term 4, 2018.
- The review of this Homework Policy will include an evaluation of its implementation through feedback provided by staff, student and parents/carers, taking into account recent research associated with homework.