

KHS Homework Policy 2005

Rationale

The value and purpose of homework is to support learning. Homework which is educationally beneficial and meets the realistic expectations of students, teachers, parents and caregivers is a valuable part of schooling. Whilst homework is an important component of the teaching and learning process, Katoomba High School recognise that it is important for students to have time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

Parents can expect homework to be set on a regular basis in each subject and that there will be some co-ordination to ensure students can complete their homework across all subject areas. As students move into the senior school parents can expect that homework and study demands will increase.

All secondary school syllabuses assume students' completion of homework. No subject can be taught solely in timetabled lessons.

The benefits of homework

Homework is valuable because it:

- allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class
- teaches students how to plan and organise their time
- develops students' research skills
- establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their lives
- reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education, strengthening home-school links
- provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children
- Challenges and extends gifted and talented children.
- Will help high school students develop habits of reviewing work undertaken in class.

Homework is a balance of revision and set work.

Types of Homework

There are three main types set of homework:

- practice exercises
- preparatory homework
- extension assignments

Practice exercises let students apply new knowledge or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills. Examples of such exercises are memorisation of mathematical formulas, practising technical vocabulary, essay writing and reading for pleasure.

Preparatory homework is where students gain background information on a unit of study to better prepare them for future lessons, for example, reading and collecting geometric shapes.

Extension assignments encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Assignments might include writing a book review, researching local news or retrieving items from the Internet.

Diaries

All students at KHS are required to have and use a diary. The diary is used for:

- Homework instructions
- Assessment task deadlines
- Communication between parents and teachers
- Out-of class permission notes – writing brief messages e.g. toilet pass, front office
- Recording students' late arrival to school

Students will be monitored for having a diary by their Roll teacher, Class teacher and Year advisor. Parents of students who persistently have no diary will be contacted in order to develop a strategy to improve the situation.

It is a student's responsibility to develop life skills in planning, through the use of a homework diary.

Parents and caregivers can help by

- taking an active interest in homework
- ensuring there is time set aside for homework
- Encouraging and supporting students to complete homework
- providing, where possible, a dedicated place for homework and study
- assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
- communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their

Child's approach to homework

- encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events
- alerting the school to any domestic or extra-curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked.

Indicative hours for Homework (per timetable cycle-fortnight)

Year 7 & 8 – up to 2 hours per subject per fortnight = 8 hours per week

Year 9 & 10 – up to 3 hours per subject per fortnight = 12 hours per week

Year 11 & 12 – up to 4 hours per subject per fortnight

At KHS, homework will:

- be appropriate for each student's age and ability
- take into account students' commitments out of school hours, such as sport, part-time employment and home responsibilities
- take into account technology such as computers, E-mail and the Internet without disadvantaging those students who do not have access to this technology
- use to teach students planning skills

- be marked promptly and accurately so students have regular feedback.
- be included in the work required by students in the award of the School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate
- be recorded by students in their diary

Homework is integrated into every subject at Katoomba High School.