



# Homework Policy

v.14/8/15

## Vision

Hunter School of the Performing Arts (HSPA) provides a creative learning environment where excellence is nurtured to enable all students to perform at their best.

## Context

HSPA is a K-12 public school where all students gain entry via an audition process in dance, drama, music or related area. Drawing from a large geographical area, many HSPA students travel significant distances to and from school each day. The majority of HSPA students are involved in many hours of extra school commitments during the week and on weekends.

## Rationale

All NSW Department of Education schools are required to have a homework policy which is relevant to the needs of its school community. The HSPA community acknowledges that homework benefits students by complementing and extending classroom learning, fostering positive study habits, providing opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning and extending the home/school partnership.

## Policy Statement

Homework is an important tool that complements and extends classroom learning, helps students take responsibility for their learning, and extends the home/school partnership in the education of the whole child.

## Definition

Homework is any task assigned by school teachers intended for students to carry out during non-school hours.<sup>1</sup>

## General Principles. *Homework is most beneficial when it is:*

- Appropriate for each student's age and ability.
- Relevant to each student's needs.
- Purposeful, planned, explicit and designed to meet specific learning goals.
- Varied and challenging, but achievable.
- Integrated with knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class.
- Clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time.
- Supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.
- Followed up with timely feedback from teachers.
- Given with consideration of students' outside of school hours commitments.
- Takes into account students' access to resources and technology beyond school.
- Supported by suggested resources or links to assist with completion.
- Developed with consideration of the scale of the task eg. large assignments should be broken into smaller milestones.
- Accessible online.

## Suggested Time Allocations

Whilst the school does not prescribe or recommend the number of hours per week that homework should be undertaken, it should be commensurate with the age and ability of the student and the scope and complexity of the tasks.

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<sup>1</sup> Harris Cooper, Jorgianne Civey Robinson, Erika A Patall, Does Homework Improve Academic Achievement? 2006 p.1

## Responsibilities and Expectations

### a) The Role of the School.

- Ensure that parents and caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy
- Encourage all students to use an organisational tool
- Provide support for students in study skills and time management.
- Integrate major assessment tasks within the school's calendar to minimise workload peaks for students
- Ensure that students are provided with assessment policy and schedules

### b) The Role of Teachers.

- Ensure that homework is relevant to class work.
- Give students clear instructions as to what is expected, how it will be assessed, when it is due and record details of homework given and completed.
- Follow up homework concerns with students and/or parents/caregivers.
- Provide written and/or oral feedback on submitted homework commensurate with the scope and nature of the task.
- Monitor the homework load of their students.
- Provide support for students in study skills and time management.
- Avoid setting homework for completion exclusively over holiday periods or weekends.
- Check the school's calendar to minimise workload peaks for students.
- Make homework available online, including due dates.
- Ensure that homework adheres to principles of good scholarship.<sup>2</sup>

### c) The Role of Head Teachers.

- Provide written information for students, at the start of each year about homework and assessment tasks.
- Respond in a timely manner to concerns raised in relation to homework issued from within the faculty or department.
- Monitor the consistent application of the homework policy within the faculty.

### d) The Role of Students.

- Use an organisational tool to record homework and assessment details and due dates.
- Meet deadlines given for the homework tasks.
- Discuss with teachers when the volume of homework given across all subjects is causing concern.
- Ensure that homework adheres to principles of good scholarship.
- If absent from class, find out details of any homework given.

### e) The Role of Parents/Caregivers.

- Support students in completing homework.
- Provide, if possible, a dedicated and suitable place for homework to be completed.
- Monitor homework requirements and completion as required.
- Communicate with teachers about any concerns with homework.

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be formally reviewed as part of the School's Strategic Plan review cycle.

- End of Policy -

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<sup>2</sup> Refer to the HSPA document [Good Scholarship: Principles and Practices](#).