



Homework Policy

Saturday School of Community Languages

Rationale

The Saturday School of Community Languages is a public secondary school which operates on Saturdays on 14 high schools sites in Sydney, and one each in Wollongong and Newcastle. The Saturday School of Community Languages offers students the opportunity to study their background community language when that language is not offered at their own high school or college.

The Saturday School of Community Languages provides effective teaching and learning within well-managed environments in partnership with parents/caregivers and the wider school community. Homework is a valuable part of teaching and learning. It allows for the practising, extending and consolidating of work done in the classroom and can help to prepare students for the next stage in their learning. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time. It also develops a range of skills in identifying and using information sources, and establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.

The goal of this policy is to ensure that homework is beneficial educationally and meets the expectations of students, teachers and parents/caregivers. Each centre of the Saturday School of Community Languages is to develop a policy statement to clarify the homework expectations for their specific community. Each centre policy statement will explain how homework will be monitored and what consequences will apply if homework is not regularly completed. This is provided on page 2 of this document.

A partnership between home and school

Homework helps to bridge the gap between home and school. It should be seen by students, teachers and parents/caregivers as a vital part of the home-school partnership which supports young people while they learn.

The nature, frequency and volume of homework set are left to the professional judgement of teachers in consultation with their centre executive. Homework needs to be balanced with weekday school homework tasks as well as family, social and extracurricular activities. Parents/caregivers will be advised of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year. Failure by students to complete homework on a regular basis will be followed up with parents/caregivers.

Types of homework

Homework should be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- interesting, challenging, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

Types of homework that meet these requirements include:

- **Practice exercises** - providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
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- **Preparatory activities** - providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons
- **Extension activities** - encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively.

Responsibilities and expectations

The role of **the teacher** is to:

- ensure that homework is related to the work being done in the classroom
- give students sufficient time for the completion of tasks
- ensure students are aware of what is expected of them and how their work will be assessed
- communicate with parents/caregivers about areas of concern related to homework
- check homework promptly and provide appropriate and timely feedback to students
- maintain student homework records.

The task of **the student** is to:

- complete homework within the given timeframe
- maintain a homework record for their teachers and parents/caregivers
- organise their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to producing quality homework
- seek assistance from their teacher and/or parent/caregiver when difficulties arise.

Parents/caregivers can help by:

- supporting their child in completing homework
- assisting teachers to monitor homework as indicated in their child's centre homework policy statement
- communicating with teachers about any concerns with homework or their child's approach to homework.

The management of homework at the [Saturday School of Community Languages] centre

Each centre of the Saturday School will develop their own statement to address how homework will be managed and monitored. This will include what consequences will apply if homework is not regularly completed.

Each centre will distribute their homework policy to their school community at the beginning of each school year or upon enrolment.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle and/or when there are amendments to the Department of Education and Communities's Homework Policy (published on the internet site <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/index.shtml>)