



Homework Policy

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and the Northern School for Autism's policy requirements relating to homework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at the Northern School for Autism.

RATIONALE

The Northern School for Autism has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- providing opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge
- providing opportunities for students to prepare for future lessons
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively

DEFINITIONS

Homework is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

POLICY

Students will only receive homework at the request of parents.

At the Northern School for Autism all homework set by teachers will be:

- appropriate to students' skill level, age and communication abilities
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- monitored by the teacher
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

The types of homework that teachers at the Northern School for Autism will include are:

- making or designing an artwork
- practising and recognising spelling words and/or communication pictures
- practising words/phrases
- applying new skills to home context such as:
 - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe

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- helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
- growing plants
- reviewing their favourite film or book
- writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
 - Individual Learning Goals

SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders** at the Northern School for Autism are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers** at the Northern School for Autism are to:

- set homework that is appropriate to the student's skill level, age and abilities
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning and goals (so, they are not 'busy work' or where students 'finish off' work they did/could not complete in class)
- ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- seeking assistance when difficulties arise

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, or with the Communication Devices available
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

The Northern School for Autism understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/carers are concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage parents/carers to speak to their child's teacher.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

REVIEW

This July 2021 policy is scheduled for review in July 2024.

EVALUATION

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This July 2021 policy was approved by the Principal on 15 July 2021.

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