



# HOMework POLICY

## PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Alkira Secondary College'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 Alkira Secondary College.

## RATIONALE

Alkira Secondary College 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
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers
- Aligning the college value of excellence with the expectations at home.

## DEFINITIONS

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

## POLICY

At Alkira Secondary College all homework set by teachers will be:

- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum. Drill and practice activities will be avoided.
- appropriate to students' skill level and age
- 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 Alkira Secondary College will include are:

## Middle Years (Years 7 – 9)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Independent reading on a daily basis
- Tasks such as continuation of classroom work, projects and assignments, essays and research
- Homework will generally be between 45 and 90 minutes per day, must be coordinated between teachers to avoid excessive workload, and may be set during weekends and College vacations.

## Later Years (Year 10 – Year 12)

Homework will consist mainly of:

- Reading, research, assignments, assessments tasks and independent projects.
- Homework schedules will be discussed with each student individually, with opportunities being made for parents to discuss homework issues with the College.
- Students will be provided with formal opportunities to build organisation and planning skills.
- Homework will generally increase from 90 minutes to 3 hours per weeknight with up to 6 hours on weekends during peak VCE periods.

## 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 Alkira Secondary College** 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.
- Provide students with a homework planner to write down work to be completed.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Alkira Secondary College** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning (so, they are not 'busy work' or where students 'finish off' work they did/could not complete in class)
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback
- 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.
- Ensure homework is written in the student planner.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise

- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment (for older students).

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,
- in dialogue, linking homework to:
  - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had
  - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
  - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

## SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Alkira Secondary College 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 CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was last updated on April 2020 and is scheduled for review April 2024.