Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. (Ed. Qld. TRIM 06/7260)

Rochedale SHS considers that homework enhances the student’s ability to learn by promoting the practices of consolidation, reflection, revision and enhancement. Homework is an integral part of the teaching and learning process.

Homework can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class. It may take many forms, depending upon such issues as subject being studied, preparation required to complete tasks, revision required to confirm knowledge and understanding, time of year (e.g. exam timetables, assignment due dates, etc.). Forms of homework may include –

- Written work
- Oral work
- Reading
- Research – pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively
- Summarising
- Memorising
- Assessment, Assignment or Project Work (Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning.)
- Study (Revision and critical reflection – practising for mastery.)

THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS WITH HOMEWORK

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- Reading to them and talking with them
- Helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- Encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning
- Encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- Helping them to balance the many demands on their time – school and social
- Contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children’s approach to the homework.

If no formal homework is set by the class teacher, students should look over the content of the day’s lessons –

- Check understanding
- Recall facts, definitions, etc.
- Plan to see the class teacher to clarify uncertainties.
RECORDING HOMEWORK

Formal homework is to be recorded in the Student Diary at the end of each lesson. This Diary may be checked by the class teacher, the HOD, the Year Co-ordinator, or a member of Administration to ensure that homework is being recorded. The recording of homework is part of being prepared for the school day.

DURATION OF HOMEWORK

As a GUIDE, students should dedicate the following times each day/night to completing homework:

- Years 8 and 9  1 – 1 ½ hours
- Year 10  1 – 2 hours
- Years 11 and 12  1 – 2 ½ hours

RESULTS OF INABILITY TO FOLLOW HOMEWORK POLICY

1. Disadvantages students in their attempts to achieve high quality outcomes by
   a. Interfering with their ability to be an active and contributing member of the class;
   b. Making it difficult for them to absorb new information which is dependant upon prior learning;
   c. Limiting opportunities for teachers to provide quality feedback and re-direction.
2. Breaches the school's Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students, which requires that students “complete all set tasks and assessment”. Breaches of this policy will result in consequences as outlined in the Behaviour Plan. Possible consequences:
   Initial offences:
   1. Warning and negotiated completion with teacher.
   2. Lunch-time detention.
   3. Parent/s notified – note or telephone.
   4. Incident recorded on school data base.

Continuing refusal to complete set work:
   1. Referral to HOD.
   2. After school detention/s.
   3. Step letter to parents.
   4. Incident/s recorded on school data base.

Continued escalation could result in:
   1. Referral to Administration at HOD’s discretion.

When no formal homework is set, students should consider the following questions – they are designed to reinforce understanding of work taught in class.

- Did you learn any formulae today?
- Did you learn any new definitions or concepts?
- What preparation do you need to complete for upcoming assessments?
- If you answered no to the above questions, you should be completing 20 minutes of extra reading each day.
HOMEWORK DIARY

Each student is issued with a school Homework Diary in which the homework set for the night is to be recorded. The book may also be used by staff and parents as a means of communicating short memos to each other relating to homework requirements or other school issues. Student diaries are the responsibility of the student and subsequently replacement copies will cost $6.50 which is payable at the school office.

PARENT / CAREGIVER SUPPORT STRATEGIES

The following strategies can be employed to encourage your student(s):

• request that your student(s) show you what work has been done in class; what notes have been taken; what handouts have been given; what worksheets have been given; what chapter of the text they are working on; what exercises (problems) have been set.
• check where student(s) write down their homework and assignment dates and check their assessment planner. (All students are issued with a diary through the Text & Resource scheme)
• assist in setting up a wall planner which takes into account all subjects, homework tasks including assignment due dates, other commitments and birthdays.
• provide a specified space in which student(s) complete their homework and develop a regular schedule that takes into consideration school, sport, social and part-time work commitments.
• encourage regular reading and review of class notes and relevant text and other materials.
• assist them in developing an individual assessment schedule so that they can plan to meet assessment timelines. A year level assessment schedule is provided early each semester to students to assist in developing study timetables.

PART TIME WORK

Students who have part-time jobs should ensure that a balance is arrived at, where time is available not only for part-time work but study, sport, religious, family and social commitments.

Extensive work commitments have the potential to adversely affect school performance.

RESPONSIBILITY

Teachers and parents have an important role in fostering the development of motivation and the desire to learn in students. Ultimately however, students must accept responsibility for their learning and progress.

To support students in their learning and in accepting responsibility for their progress, teachers may from time to time feel it necessary to put in place consequences for incomplete homework or classwork. Consequences will vary dependant upon each individual situation. Persistent failure to meet classwork or homework expectations will result in parent contact and/or referral to the Head of Department.