

From primary to high school: The next big step

Understanding your child's schoolwork



In Year 7, your child will be introduced to subjects they haven't experienced before, and other subjects that may have a different approach and emphasis from primary school learning.

They will also be expected to be more independent and self-reliant than in primary school.

In order to be eligible for their School Certificate at the end of Year 10, students must study the following subjects from Year 7:

- English
- mathematics
- science
- geography
- history
- languages
- technology
- visual arts
- music
- personal development, health and physical education (PDHPE).

Students in Years 7-10 may also be able to choose from elective subjects. Examples of subjects most commonly offered in Years 9 and 10 are:

- Aboriginal studies
- agricultural technology
- commerce
- dance
- design and technology
- drama
- food technology
- graphics technology
- industrial technology
- information and software technology
- marine and aquaculture technology
- music
- photographic and digital media
- physical activity and sports studies

- textiles technology
- visual arts
- visual design
- work education
- choice of 17 languages.

The elective subjects offered at your public high school will depend on the number of students interested in a particular subject and the expertise available within the school. If your child has a particular talent or area of interest, you might also like to look at one of our specialist high schools.

Other in-school activities

Some of the other activities offered by schools to support each student's social and personal development include:

- peer support and peer mediation
- student mentors

- gifted and talented programs
- awards and recognition programs
- drug and health education
- anti-racism education
- domestic violence and child protection education
- crime prevention programs
- health and fitness programs
- Year 6-7 transition programs
- student leadership training
- student representative councils
- adventure camps and field excursions.

Homework

Your child will generally have homework set each school day and as they move into more senior years the homework and study demands will increase. Homework reinforces work done in class and helps develop skills such as research and time management. It also helps to establish the habits of study, concentration and self discipline.

You can help your child by:

- taking an active interest in their homework
- supporting them in setting aside time each day for homework
- providing a dedicated place for homework and study if possible
- assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested, and being aware of the amount of homework set
- communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or your child's approach to homework
- encouraging your child to read and take an interest in current events
- alerting the school to any domestic circumstances or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked.

Each school develops its own homework policy in consultation with parents and carers. You can obtain a copy from your school.

Progress reports

You will receive at least two written reports on your child's progress each year – usually at the end of terms 2 and 4. Both the Principal and the teachers will be more than happy to discuss your child's progress with you.

Many schools hold parent/teacher meetings (usually in the evenings) to provide parents with the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with each of their child's teachers. Most high schools encourage parents to visit or telephone the school at any time if they wish to discuss any concerns or ideas they may have about their child's progress.

If required, you can request that an interpreter be present at parent/teacher meetings and where possible the school will organise it.

Telephone Interpreter Service

If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact your Principal, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on telephone number 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The interpreter will call the Principal and will stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

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For translated information go to www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport