

## HOMEWORK POLICY

### Rationale

Homework is an opportunity for parents/carers to help and be involved in your child's learning. It reinforces what they learn at school and encourages them to maintain lifelong study habits.

### Aims

- providing students, parents and teachers with a clear set of expectations for how homework is administered, supported and completed at Whittlesea Secondary College (WSC)
- an opportunity for parents to help and be involved in their child's learning; reinforcing what they learn at school and encouraging children to maintain lifelong study habits.

### Implementation

#### *Definitions*

Homework can be divided into three distinct areas.

#### Practice exercises

- Provide opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:
  - reading for pleasure
  - practising spelling words
  - practising physical education skills
  - writing essays and other creative tasks
  - practising and playing musical instruments
  - completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics
  - practising words/phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English.

#### Preparatory

- Provides opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:
  - collecting newspaper articles
  - researching topics for class work
  - reading background material
  - reading English texts for class discussion
  - revising information about a current topic.

#### Extension assignments

- Encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:
  - writing a book review
  - researching local news
  - finding material on the Internet
  - making or designing an art work
  - monitoring advertising in a newspaper
  - completing Science investigation exercises

### *Successful practice*

Successful homework practice for the different year levels are

#### Years 7-9

- should include daily independent reading
- be coordinated across subjects in secondary schools to avoid unreasonable student workloads
- may extend class work, projects and assignments, essays and research

- will generally range from
  - 30-45 minutes a day at Year 5
  - 45-90 minutes a day in Year 9

#### Years 10-12

- will generally increase, and require from 1–3 hours per week night with up to 6 hours on weekends during peak VCE periods.

#### **Teacher Expectations**

- Homework should be
  - appropriate to the student's skill level and age
  - purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
  - interesting, challenging and when appropriate open ended
  - assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided
  - balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.
- Teachers can help students with their homework by
  - setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
  - helping students establish a home study routine
  - giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
  - assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
  - making effective use of homework diaries for upper primary and secondary students
  - coordinating the allocation of homework by different teachers in secondary schools
  - helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
  - ensuring that students have good information skills
  - ensuring parents and carers are aware of the school's homework policy
  - developing strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework.

#### **Student and Parent/Carer Expectations**

Students and parents/carers should be aware of the following:

- parents will observe that as their children progress through the school the homework demands increase.
- parents and students may find they have more homework at some times of the year. Staff attempt to balance homework, but at assessment times or when a student is having difficulty, this may be unavoidable.
  - at these times students need to try and spread the required work
- A major component of the homework policy is the planner.
  - students are responsible for recording their daily homework and work requirements. Parents are requested to check the planner and sign it weekly
- Homework completion will affect student performance and achievement.
  - teachers use a number of strategies for students who do not complete homework which include entries in the planner, detentions and report comments

#### **Parents and Carers Support**

Parents and carers can help students with their homework by

- encouraging a regular daily session to examine and complete homework
- discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with homework
- helping to balance the time spent between homework and recreational activities
- asking how homework and class work is progressing, and acknowledging success
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- talking to teachers about any homework problems
- checking if homework has been set

- ensuring upper primary and secondary students keep a homework diary
- reading texts set by teachers
- discussing their child's responses to set texts and asking to see their completed work
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language.

#### **Related Legislation and Policies**

- [DET Homework Policy](#)

#### **Appendices**

#### **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

**This Policy was last ratified by School Council in: 2017**