

Homework Policy 2014

Policy Statement

This policy is intended to outline the expectations for homework as a guide for students, parents and teachers.

Definition of homework

It should be noted that homework can be divided into three distinct areas:

Type	Description
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 homework	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 for History 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 art work Monitoring advertising in a newspaper Completing Science investigation exercises

Aim

This policy is aimed at providing students, parents and teachers with a clear set of expectations for how homework is administered, supported and completed at Whittlesea Secondary College.

Successful Practice

Successful homework practice for the different year levels are detailed below:

Years	Homework...
7 to 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should include daily independent reading• Should be coordinated across subjects in secondary schools to avoid unreasonable workloads for students• May extend class work, projects and assignments, essays and research• Will generally range from:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 30 to 45 minutes a day at year 72. 45 to 60 minutes a day at year 83. 45 to 90 minutes a day in Year 9
10 to 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
- Coordinating the allocation of homework by different teachers
- 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
- Homework clubs may be offered at lunch times and/or after school to provide additional support for students in need
- Students can access to the library resources at recess and lunch times to support the completion of homework tasks.

Student and Parent Expectations

Students and Parents 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 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
- Communicate any homework concerns with teachers via email, phone and/or daily planner
- Checking if homework has been set
- Ensuring students keep a homework diary that is taken to and used in all classes
- 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.