

Mount Waverley Secondary College

HOMework AND HOME STUDY POLICY



Rationale

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows students to practice, extend and consolidate work completed in class. It also provides students with opportunities to develop planning and time management skills and in using information resources. It also allows students to establish study habits and self-discipline.

Homework develops and extends on the work completed during class time and provides opportunities to strengthen the partnership between the college and home. It also provides parents/carers with insights into what is being taught at school. Homework expectations are also included in the student planner distributed at the beginning of the year. If students do not complete their homework on a regular basis this will be followed up with parents.

Teachers at the college set regular homework. Where possible, homework tasks will be coordinated across different subjects and faculties to ensure students are still able to balance their school and other external commitments.

Homework should be:

- appropriate to the student's age and skill level
- purposeful and relevant to the curriculum
- assessed and checked by teachers with feedback for improvement when required

Homework is more than just completing set tasks and activities. A wide variety of activities constitute homework and home study including:

- completing classroom work
- reading texts, especially English novels and texts
- preparing for a new topic
- studying for a test
- revising work
- working on out of class assignments
- listening to/ watching the news
- preparing for a class presentation
- practising a musical instrument
- practising tasks to improve skills
- practising a Language being studied

The current evidence and research shows that the quality of homework assigned is important. Research has established that homework has a positive effect on learning and is an important educational supplement to enhance the learning experience of students. Providing choice amongst homework tasks results in higher motivational and performance outcomes.

Homework assists students by;

- Complementing and reinforcing classroom learning
- Fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- Providing an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning
- Developing self-regulation processes such as self-reflection and time management

Expectations

Time spent on homework is dependent on the age of the child and the academic demands of the year level. While the amount of homework may vary over the course of the year it is generally expected that students should allow the following time to complete homework and home study. It is recommended that students complete the homework in a timely manner and to the best of their ability, the student planner will assist students in managing and prioritising tasks and study.

The suggested minimum times for home study are:

Years 7 & 8	1-2 hours per night
Year 9	2 hours per night
Year 10	2 – 2.5 hours per night
Year 11	2.5 – 3 hours per night
Year 12	3 – 4 hours per night

* Students may also complete homework and home study at the weekend during some times of the year.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The college

- Ensuring that parents and carers are aware of the Homework Policy
- Fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children
- Limiting homework set for completion over holidays or weekends (except for VCE)
- Setting no homework the week before examination periods (Years 9-12) except for revision purposes
- Integrating major assessment tasks within the school calendar
- Ensuring and encouraging students to use the student planner
- Notifying parents if homework is not submitted or is unsatisfactory or incomplete

The teacher

- That the work is appropriate for a homework or home study task, for example, practice exercises, revision of concepts, extension exercises
- That the work is reasonable and manageable for the student concerned and within the time frame
- Encourage students to engage with problem solving, logical thinking and creativity
- The homework requirements are clear; the due date is stated and entered in the student planner and work is returned in a timely manner and oral/written feedback is given when required
- To assist students when difficulties arise
- To record any non-submission of homework on Compass
- Follow up with students who have not completed homework with appropriate consequences, for example, renegotiating a submission date, lunch or after school detentions to ensure work is completed

The student

- To record the details of all set homework and home study in their student planner
- To be aware of the importance of homework and the college homework policy
- To record due dates for major assessment tasks and assignments in the student planner
- Accept responsibility for the completion of homework tasks by the due date
- To seek assistance from teachers, parents/carers when difficulties arise
- Organise their time to manage home and sporting commitments, recreational and other activities and part time work if applicable
- In the case of an absence the student is responsible for handing in the homework as soon as they return or negotiate with the teacher an alternate time.

Parents and carers

- Develop a positive and productive approach to homework
- Assisting their child to develop organisational strategies
- Encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their own learning
- Providing a quiet place and a desk for regular homework and study

- Encouraging them to set aside time each day to read and complete homework on time
- Helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework and engaging in leisure, sport or part time employment
- Checking the student planner to see whether homework or study has been set
- Contacting the teacher if there are concerns about the homework
- Attending college events, displays or productions in which their children are involved
- Contacting the relevant teacher or subschool team to discuss any problems their children are having with the homework

WHEN HOMEWORK, ASSIGNMENTS AND TASKS ARE NOT COMPLETED

One or more of the following consequences may follow when homework is not completed;

- Students in Years 7 to 10 who fail to meet work submission deadlines or assignments or tasks will forfeit marks at the rate of 10% or one grade per overdue school day. If work is more than five school days late it will be awarded an NS for non-submission
- Students in VCE units fall under the jurisdiction of VCAA guidelines for submissions, which are outlined in the VCE Handbook
- If work is not completed then the parent/ carer may be notified. The concern is also recorded on Compass
- If work is still not satisfactorily completed the student will be required to attend a detention – this may be after school (parents will be given at least 24 hours if this occurs)

If homework is continually not submitted then the subschool team will work with the parent/carer to assist in developing strategies, for example, use the library after school and attend Homework Club.