

HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale

At Maribyrnong College, homework is considered an important part of the learning process and an integral part of the school program at all levels. To achieve success at the secondary level, students need to undertake study at home in addition to their contact time at school. Regular homework enables students to practise, consolidate and extend the skills and knowledge acquired in the classroom. Homework assists in developing good study habits, organisational and time-management skills. It promotes independent student learning and helps establish patterns of behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom.

General Principles

Homework is:

- appropriate to the phase of learning and year level
- appropriate to the capabilities of the student and relevant to the student's needs
- related to class work with clear goals and objectives, and relevant to the curriculum
- engaging, varied and challenging
- set on a regular basis to consolidate and extend the skills and knowledge acquired in the classroom
- a way of engaging parents and carers in their child's learning and developing a partnership with the school

Types of Homework

There are various types of homework set for students depending on their age, ability and subject. As a general rule, homework is set in all subjects, although frequency will vary from subject to subject.

Practice Exercises

Practice exercises provide students with opportunities to apply new knowledge, review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills. For example:

- Completing maths exercises
- Reading
- Practising spelling
- Practising words and phrases in a language other than English
- Practising and playing a musical instrument

Preparatory Homework

Preparatory homework provides opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons. For example:

- Reading background material for history
- Reading English text for class discussions
- Researching topics for class work
- Collecting newspaper articles

Extension Assignments

Extension Assignments encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. For example:

- Writing a book review
- Finding material on the internet
- Designing an artwork
- Completing a science investigation

In Years 7-9 where there is no set homework, suggested homework activities appear in the Student Planner.

In addition to set homework, students in Year 10 and VCE students should be in the habit of continuously revising course work, writing up summary notes and generally expanding their knowledge of the topic and concepts through wider reading beyond the set school texts.

Average Year Level Requirements

The amount of time students spend on homework will vary depending on the year level, student's academic ability, individual learning needs, extra-curricular activities and family obligations.

Suggested averages are:

Year 7 and 8 45-60 minutes per night

Year 9 60-90 minutes per night

*Students who are in the ACE Program can expect to have homework set towards the upper limits

Year 10 90-120 minutes per night

Year 11 and 12 120-180 minutes per week night with up to 6-8 hours on weekends during peak VCE periods.

The Role of the College

The College will:

- Explicitly teach strategies to develop organisational, time-management and study skills
 - MIPS Program 7-12
 - Year 11 study camp
- Encourage and promote to parents the use of the Parent Portal to view student homework
- Provide students with a School Planner
- When viable, provide an after school tutoring program to assist students across all year levels.
- Regularly report to parents the status of their child's academic progress

The Role of the Teacher

The teacher will:

- Set homework appropriate to the capabilities of the student and relevant to the student's needs
- Set homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work
- Set homework on a regular basis and record it on Homework Tracker
- Clearly communicate purpose and expectations of all homework
- Check homework and provide timely and useful feedback
- Take into consideration the time constraints and commitments of students in special school programs (e.g. Sport Academy) and allow for extensions when due process is followed by the student. Extensions will be provided for valid reasons only.
- Be mindful of the homework demands in other subject areas and any out- of -school demands that the student may have

The Role of the Student

The student will:

- Take responsibility for their homework
- Record homework details and due dates in the planner.
- Bring the planner to every class.
- Take responsibility for the management and completion of set homework
- Inform the subject teacher of any difficulties
- Ensure that homework is completed and handed in by the due date
- Be responsible for catching up on missed work
- Negotiate extensions for if work will not be completed by the due date. This must be done prior to the due date and not on the day work is due

The Role of Parents/Carers

Parents and Carers will:

- Check homework requirements through the Parent Portal.
- Monitor their child's homework and involve themselves through talking, listening and supporting their child with the homework
- Encourage a regular time and place to complete homework
- Help maintain a balance between homework, recreational and family time
- Report to the classroom teacher or Year Level Coordinator if they consider that their child is doing too little or too much homework
- Report to the classroom teacher or Year Level Coordinator if their child is regularly struggling with the homework demands or conversely, is not challenged by the homework given
- Support school sanctions if their child does not attempt to complete homework e.g. lunchtime or after school detentions; Redemption classes, including Saturday Redemption class and Mondays Principal Detention

This policy was developed by the Education and Community Sub-Committee of the School Council, Curriculum Committee and all members of staff and students.

The policy incorporates DEECD Homework Guidelines, available in the *School Policy Advisory Guide*.

Policy passed at School Council Meeting: 19/06/13

To be reviewed: 2016