



HOMWORK AND HOME STUDY POLICY

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Mount Waverley Secondary College's policy requirements relating to homework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Mount Waverley Secondary College.

RATIONALE

Mount Waverley Secondary College has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- providing opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge
- providing opportunities for students to prepare for future lessons
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

DEFINITIONS

Homework is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours. **Home study** is revision and reinforcement of work covered.

POLICY

At Mount Waverley Secondary College all homework set by teachers will be:

- purposeful
- curriculum-aligned
- appropriate to students' skill level and age
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- monitored by the teacher
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.



The types of homework that teachers at Mount Waverley Secondary may include:

- completing consolidation exercises
- completing preparation work for a new topic
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising tasks to improve specific skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English
- reading background material for a subject
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- revising/preparing for tests
- applying new skills to home context such as:
 - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
 - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
 - growing plants
 - reviewing their favourite film or book
 - writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
 - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
 - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

TIME SPENT ON HOMEWORK AND HOME STUDY

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.



SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Mount Waverley Secondary College** are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Mount Waverley Secondary College** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning (so, they are not 'busy work' or where students 'finish off' work they did/could not complete in class)
- ensure the amount of homework set is reasonable and manageable for the student concerned and within the timeframe
- offers opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.
- ensure homework requirements are clear; a due date is provided, work is checked/returned in a timely manner, and appropriate feedback is provided when required

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- to record the details and due date for all set homework and home study
- being aware of the school's homework policy and the importance of regular homework and home study
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- in the case of an absence the student is responsible for handing the homework in as soon as they return or discussing with their teacher an alternate due date
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment (for older students).

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- developing a productive and positive approach to homework and home study
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- encouraging students to take increasing responsibility for their own learning by developing organisational strategies
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking homework to:
 - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had
 - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
 - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.



- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Mount Waverley Secondary College understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/carers are concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage parents/carers to speak to their child's teacher.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2024
Consultation	Education Subcommittee
Approved by	College Principal and School Council
Next scheduled review date	October 2027