



Ringwood Secondary College Homework Policy

Version No: 4

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Committee: Policy and Education

Rationale:

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning. It allows students to develop responsibility for their own learning, and facilitates their development as active independent learners. Homework is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. It enables students in junior levels to develop the skills needed for success in their senior secondary levels, and at the senior levels to develop the skills needed for success in VCE studies and beyond.

Aims:

- To ensure that students at all levels are challenged with regular homework.
- To ensure that teachers, students and parents see homework as a valuable and integral component of the teaching and learning program.
- To encourage students to develop an attitude of responsibility for their own learning and develop the habits of independent learning and individual research.
- To enable teachers to extend the learning program beyond the normal school day by enabling students to continue the learning process outside school hours.
- To communicate guidelines for the amount of time students should spend doing homework. The times are based on an average of five sessions per week:

Year Level	Amount per day
7 and 8	45-60 minutes per day
9 and 10	60-90 minutes per day
11 and 12	2-3 hours per day

- In VCE, students may be required to complete up to 6 hours of homework on weekends during peak periods.
- To follow guidelines in keeping with government recommendations.

Types of homework

Homework should be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open ended
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided
- balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.

Types of homework that meet these requirements include:

Practice exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- Reading for pleasure
- Practising spelling words
- Writing essays and other creative tasks
- Practising and playing musical instruments
- Practising physical education skills
- Completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics
- Practising words/phrases learnt in a Language

Preparatory homework – providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons – such as:

- Collecting newspaper articles
- Reading background material for a subject
- Reading English texts for class discussion
- Researching topics for class work
- Revising/summarising information about a current topic
- Revising/preparing for assessment tasks
- VCE students should ensure they prepare thoroughly for assessment tasks including SACs. This will often involve independent study, utilising detailed time management.

Extension assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively – such as

- Writing a book review
- Researching local news
- Making or designing an art work
- Finding material on the Internet
- Completing science investigation exercises
- Monitoring advertising in a newspaper

Implementation Guidelines

The College will:

- advise parents of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the homework policy
- work with parents/guardians to establish good homework patterns

Role of Teachers

- When setting homework activities teachers should give a reasonable timeframe for completion of work taking into account:
 - home obligations and extra curricular activities
 - work requirements and due dates in other subjects
 - where possible, spread the workload throughout the Term/semester
 - give clear guidelines for completing all tasks.
- ensure that students use a homework planner (electronic or paper) to record homework and due dates for work.
- follow up with parents if a student regularly fails to complete homework
- Ensure the emphasis on homework and its contribution to overall assessment will be appropriate to the year level.

- Learning Area Coordinators are encouraged to promote the value of homework by discussing issues related to homework at Learning Area meetings to establish a common approach to homework tasks leading to parity across year levels.

Role of the student:

Students are expected to:

- record homework
- complete homework within the timeline doing their best work

Helping students

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 their child keeps 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.

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
- where possible, 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 College's homework policy
- developing strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework.