



PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Sunbury Downs College policy requirements relating to homework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Sunbury Downs College.

RATIONALE

Sunbury Downs College has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with students, staff and the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- complementing and reinforcing classroom learning particularly for enhanced literacy and numeracy across all disciplines
- fostering positive lifelong learning, curiosity and study habits
- improving cognitive engagement and learner agency by developing self-regulation processes such as goal-setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection and time management
- allowing for multiple exposures in student learning experiences

DEFINITIONS

Homework is defined as tasks assigned to students by teachers that are intended to be carried out during non-school hours.

POLICY

At Sunbury Downs College the effectiveness of homework will be enhanced when:

- it is set at an appropriate level for each student, supporting those who are experiencing difficulty and extending those of high-ability
- it is related to essential learning at school
- a choice in tasks is provided where applicable
- it is assessed by teachers, either formally or informally, with feedback provided
- it supports students to have a balance of school-related and non-school related activity in their lives (i.e. where the amount of homework set provides sufficient additional time for students to engage with family, sport and recreation, cultural pursuits and employment, where appropriate)
- partnerships with parents/carers are supported and families are connected with the learning of their children.

The amount of homework will vary according to student learning needs, year level and subject. To assist students in achieving a suitable balance between homework and recreational activities, the following pattern of homework/study is suggested:



Years 7 and 8 :	an average of 3-5 hours per week
Years 9 and 10:	an average of 4-6 hours per week
VCE:	an average of 1-3 hours per night and up to 6 hours on the weekend (particularly during peak VCE periods).

Holiday homework may be assigned by teachers for Middle Years students and will align with the suggested time frames listed above and will continue to complement learning and skill acquisition in the classroom. Holiday Homework will be assigned to students in the Later Years and will also align with the suggested time frames mentioned above.

The types of homework that teachers at Sunbury Downs College may assign include:

- completing consolidation exercises/tasks
- revising key knowledge and skills
- completing investigation exercises
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising spelling words
- practising skills learnt in class
- 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
- extension tasks when/where appropriate for students seeking to further their understanding
- 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.

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 Sunbury Downs College** are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/guardians of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.
- monitor the amount of homework being given at particular year levels and support teachers to set an appropriate amount of homework, working in collaboration with all learning areas.



Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Sunbury Downs 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
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback
- ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning
- follow up with students and families if homework is consistently not being completed
- Support students to use the planner to manage homework and time

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- using the planner to record and manage homework
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/guardians
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise i.e. attending study clubs at the school
- 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:


- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- checking the planner to monitor homework and support their student at home
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- 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/guardian 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

Sunbury Downs College understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/guardians 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/guardians to speak to their child's teacher. Students are encouraged to engage with opportunities and various supports when completing homework such as Maths Club, study time in the ERC before and after school.

Homework Policy

2022

 <p>Sunbury Downs College</p> <p><i>'Confidence to Achieve'</i></p>	Quality Controlled					
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