

Homework Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Warragul Regional College's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

VALUE OF HOMEWORK

The current evidence and research shows that homework has a positive effect on learning, particularly at the middle and secondary school levels (Xu, 2010; Zimmerman & Kitsantas, 2005). Homework continues to be an important educational supplement used by teachers to enhance the learning experience of their students (Patall, Cooper, & Wynn, 2010).

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and to staff responsible for setting homework.

POLICY

Warragul Regional College expects students to further develop and consolidate their independent learning skills by completing homework tasks. Homework has a positive effect on learning and is an important part of reinforcing the concepts that are introduced in class. It also plays a significant role in building work ethic, self-discipline, and responsibility.

Teachers at Warragul Regional College are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students. Homework assigned across different learning areas will be coordinated by Curriculum Team Leaders and the Junior and Senior Sub-school Leaders to avoid unreasonable workloads for students.

Students in Years 7 to 9

Homework tasks at these year levels may include daily independent reading, completion of tasks set in class, extension tasks, pre-reading for upcoming classes, projects, essays, exercises and research.

Generally, students will be expected to spend between 30 to 60 minutes per day on homework tasks. Some tasks may be assigned to be completed during weekends and on the school holidays.

Students in Years 10 to 12

Generally, students can expect homework tasks in these year levels to increase to reflect the expected level of independence and initiative of students.

At Year 11 and Year 12, students are expected to spend an increased amount of time completing homework tasks in preparation for VCE and VCAL.

Students can expect to spend between 1 to 3 hours of homework per weeknight, and further study on weekends during assessment periods including CATs, SACs and Exam periods.

Shared expectations and responsibilities

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

Warragul Regional College will support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools
- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the homework policy
- encouraging students to use electronic tools to record homework tasks as they are allocated
- Use COMPASS (email tools, Chronicle entries and Learning tasks) to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

It is expected that teachers will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity, and imagination
- set varied, challenging, and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- 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.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them, and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- discussing any concerns they have about the homework with teachers about
- attending school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- ensuring students maintain an electronic or other homework diary
- 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, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations, and community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

Support for students, parents, and carers

Teachers at Warragul Regional College understand that students have different learning styles and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a disproportionate period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to the subject teacher (if it is just for one subject), CARE Group teacher (if for more than one subject) or Sub-school Leader (Ms Clapperton for the Junior Sub-school, or Mr Yarde for the Senior Sub-school).

Students who may benefit from support completing their homework tasks are encouraged to attend study periods in D2 on Thursday afternoon between 3:30 and 5pm.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - [Homework Guidelines](#)
 - [Homework Expectations](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last reviewed on May 20th, 2020 and is scheduled for review in **May 2022**