



Warracknabeal Secondary College

HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale:

The college sees homework as being desirable for the following reasons:

- it is part of the student's overall education for self-discipline
- to save taking up valuable class time with straight forward practice type work
- to enable students to do individual and independent work without distraction and assistance from others
- to provide an opportunity for constant revision

Aims:

Warracknabeal Secondary College has a clear policy endorsing homework as a valuable aspect of the learning process and as being especially important in developing sound study habits.

Homework can be divided into three areas:

Practice exercises	<p>Provide opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reading for pleasure • practising spelling words • practising physical education skills • writing essays and other creative tasks • practising and playing musical instruments • completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics • practising words/phrases learnt in a Language Other Than English.
Preparatory homework	<p>Provides opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collecting newspaper articles • researching topics for class work • reading background material for History • reading English texts for class discussion • revising information about a current topic.
Extension assignments	<p>Encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • writing a book review • researching local news • finding material on the Internet • making or designing an art work • monitoring advertising in a newspaper • completing Science investigation exercises

Implementation:

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 secondary students keep a homework diary (this can be either hardcopy or electronically).
- 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 for secondary students
- coordinating the allocation of homework by different teachers in secondary schools
- helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensuring that students have good information skills
- ensuring parents and carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- developing strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework.

Successful Practice

These times are suggested guidelines only, not prescribed minimums:

Years 7 to 9 Ranging from 45 to 90 minutes a day

- should include daily independent reading
- should be coordinated across subjects in secondary schools to avoid unreasonable workloads for students
- may extend class work, projects and assignments, essays and research

Years 10 to 12 will generally increase, and require from 1–3 hours per week night with up to 6 hours on weekends during peak VCE periods.

Link: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/guidelines.aspx>

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Ratified by School Council

Date: 19-08-13

Signed:

Principal:



School Council President:

