



Homework Policy

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community, the Department's and Beechworth 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 Beechworth Secondary College.

RATIONALE

Beechworth Secondary College has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing.

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good habits of lifelong learning, self-discipline, concentration and study. Homework provides students with an opportunity to be responsible for their own learning and is a valuable part of schooling. Through meaningful homework, students can practise, extend and consolidate the learning completed in class and helps them develop skills in planning, organisation and preparedness for future learning. Homework serves to strengthen the partnership between home and school and provides parents and caregivers with insights as to what is being taught at school. The quantity and frequency of homework needs to be balanced with family, social and extracurricular activities. Homework will generally range from 45 - 90 minutes a day in Years 7-9. In Years 10 to 12, homework will generally increase, and require from 1-3 hours per week night, with up to 6 hours on weekends during peak assessment periods.

Beechworth Secondary College supports students to use the college facilities after school in order to complete homework in a supported way.

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

At Beechworth 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 Beechworth Secondary College will include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- completing science investigation exercises
- researching or planning for an artwork or design concept
- practising and playing musical instruments or creating digital sound compositions
- practising subject based vocabulary
- practising sports 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.

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 Beechworth 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 Beechworth 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)
- 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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- recording homework in the school diary or digital diary
- 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 (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
- 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/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

Beechworth 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 or Mini School Leader.

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	8/12/2021
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	1/12/2022