

student homework policy

introduction

Ballarat Clarendon College is implementing this policy to ensure that students, parents and staff are aware of their involvement with, and obligations in regards to, student homework participation.

policy

Homework is important for reasons including;

- increasing time on task, which is a strong correlate of achievement
- establishing some ability to work independently
- practising and preparing for coming lessons and units of work
- developing good habits of study, concentration and self discipline from early in primary school
- practising, extending, reinforcing and consolidating skills and content learned in class
- strengthening home-school links

The time students need to complete tasks at home varies. A task intended to engage a Year 7 student for 15 minutes will take some students five minutes and others one hour or more. In the former situation, a student is expected to allocate the specified time to homework-type tasks.

However, a student needing more than the set time to finish a homework piece should ask one of their parents or a boarding house tutor to sign the diary so as to indicate that the required time has been completed. Parents should not let their children spend significantly longer than that specified on homework tasks, and all teachers must accept parent signatures in diaries as proof that students have expended the required amount of time.

Some students find this very hard to accept – they want to make all their work perfect! These students need coaching from home and school to understand that the challenge is to do the best job possible within the time available. Students who ignore this will find themselves in difficulties in more senior years when it will be physically impossible to achieve perfection with every piece of work. If a parent believes their child needs school support in this area please discuss the issue with the House teacher or Learning Mentor.

We all need to acknowledge the rich and full lives many of our students live outside of school managing their sporting, music, performance and other commitments. Students should be given homework according to the table which follows.

Please note that:

- Years 5 to 9 classes have three study periods per week, and Years 10 to 12 classes have one or two study periods per week when up to 30 minutes of homework can be completed in each.
- Year 12 students have a study period in their timetable which is taken at school. Maximising this time at school is critical as it will provide an opportunity for homework to be done and may give the opportunity in the evenings for consolidation of skills in areas of revision, summaries and extended tasks.
- Year 11 students who study at least one Units 3&4 subject should expect to allocate one hour per day for each of these; likewise Year 10 students who study at least one Units 1&2 subject should expect to allocate 45 minutes per subject.

The extended assignment is another area that can cause problems for students. Assignments should never mean extra work. Work for assignments must fit into the normal homework expectations. Occasionally some students can spend whole days and even weekends working on assignments. An assignment set over a two-week period should use no more than seven homework allocations. When an assignment is set students should write very specific details of its requirements into the relevant pages of the homework diary so that it is obvious that this is the homework to be done on the set nights. If a parent believes their child has not been given enough support with planning assignment work the teacher concerned should be contacted immediately, perhaps via a note in the diary. Staff will happily help remedy the situation.

Year Level	Homework set per class	Total homework per day
Prep – 2	Shared reading	Up to 10 minutes
3 – 4	Reading and homework	30 minutes (Yr 3) – 35 minutes (Yr 4) Monday to Thursday

Year Level	Homework set	Total homework per week
5	Mathematics	40 minutes – Monday to Thursday
	English	40 minutes – Monday to Thursday
6	Mathematics	50 minutes – Monday to Thursday
	English	50 minutes – Monday to Thursday

Year Level	Number of classes per day	Homework set per class	Total homework per day
7	4	15 minutes	1 hour
8	4	20 minutes	1 hour 20 minutes
9	4	25 minutes	1 hour 40 minutes
10	4	30 minutes	2 hours
11	4	45 minutes	3 hours
12	2 / 3 / 4	1 hour	3 – 4 hours (including study periods)

Research data (Robert Marzano) supports our commitment to homework as part of our curriculum program;

- the more homework students do, the better their achievement (within practical and ethical limits)
- if homework is assigned, it should be commented on. The effects of homework vary greatly, depending on the feedback provided by the teacher

In summary:

- Parents are encouraged to take an interest and be involved in their child's homework, but direct assistance should be kept to a minimum.
- The purpose of homework should be articulated and identified.
- When homework is assigned for practice, it should be structured around content with which students have a high degree of familiarity.
- Homework is assigned to prepare students for new content or to have them elaborate on content that has already been introduced.

Supporting Documentation:	College Curriculum Outlines
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