



# POLICY

## SECONDARY SCHOOL – HOME LEARNING

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Mansfield Secondary College's expectations for home learning activities.

### **SCOPE**

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

### **POLICY**

Mansfield Secondary College expects students to further develop and consolidate their independent learning skills by completing home learning tasks. Home learning has a positive effect on school 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 Mansfield Secondary College are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students. Home learning assigned across different learning areas will be coordinated by year level coordinators to avoid unreasonable workloads for students.

#### **Years 7 to 9**

Home learning tasks at these year levels may include daily independent reading, extended classwork, projects, essays, exercises and research.

Generally, students will be expected to spend between 45 to 90 minutes per day on homework tasks. Some tasks may be assigned to be completed during weekends and on the school holidays.

#### **Years 10 to 12**

Generally, students can expect home learning tasks in these year levels to increase, to take into account 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 home learning 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.

### **Shared Expectations and Responsibilities**

Home learning is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of home learning tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Mansfield Secondary 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 home learning policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of home learning expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the home learning policy

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 home learning tasks, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assess home learning and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills

## SECONDARY SCHOOL – HOME LEARNING

- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's home learning policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in home learning activities
- 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 home learning policy
- discussing with their parents/carers home learning expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of home learning 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 home learning tasks
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on home learning and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the home learning
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- discussing home learning with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking home learning 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 home learning tasks.

### Support for Students, Parents and Carers

Teachers at Mansfield Secondary College understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and home learning differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the home learning tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak the relevant year level coordinator

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

### REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last reviewed on 27 July 2020 and is scheduled for review on July 2023.