

INTRODUCTION

All staff members of Bairnsdale Secondary College are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children. Our College Values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience provide a strong foundation for this policy.

AIM

To outline to our school community the Department and Bairnsdale Secondary College policy requirements relating to homework.

Bairnsdale Secondary College has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- providing opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge
- providing opportunities for students to prepare for future lessons
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and to staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Bairnsdale Secondary College.

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

Bairnsdale Secondary College expects students to further develop and consolidate their independent learning skills by completing appropriate homework tasks. Homework can have 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.

The setting of homework should take into account the personal and developmental needs of students and consideration for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes a balance of sufficient time for family, sport and recreation, cultural pursuits and employment where appropriate.

Teachers at Bairnsdale Secondary 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 key learning areas to avoid unreasonable workloads for students.

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IMPLEMENTATION

At Bairnsdale 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 Bairnsdale Secondary College may include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- completing science investigation exercises
- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising spelling words
- 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
- engaging with parents and relatives/friends 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. To get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Bairnsdale 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 Bairnsdale 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 (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.

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Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- 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 (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, history and language
 - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.
- ensuring there is a suitable study area for their child to complete homework.

Support for students, parents and carers

Students are encouraged to attend teacher supported study sessions in the Malgobila LRC on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons between 3:15 and 5pm.

Teachers at Bairnsdale Secondary College understand that students have different learning styles and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. We encourage parents/carers to speak to the Year Level Coordinator if they are concerned that their child does not understand the homework tasks set for them, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework.

OTHER RESOURCES

DE School Policy and Advisory Guide:

- Homework Expectations
- Homework Guidelines.

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