

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 for self' and 'respect for others' provide a strong foundation for this policy.

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

AIM

The Department requires all schools to have a policy that explains their approach to homework for students.

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

SCOPE

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

POLICY

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

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Years 7 to 9

Homework 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 school holidays.

Years 10 to 12

Generally, students can expect homework 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 homework 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

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.

Bairnsdale 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 homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the homework policy
- ensuring students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school. Diaries may be electronic.

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 homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in homework
- 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 homework policy
- discussing with their parents/carers homework expectations
- 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.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework 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 homework
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- ensuring students keep a homework diary
- 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, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Bairnsdale Secondary College understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework 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 to the Year Level Coordinator.

Students who may benefit from support completing their homework tasks are encouraged to attend study periods in the Malgobila LRC on Thursday afternoons between 3:15 and 5pm.

OTHER RESOURCES

DET School Policy and Advisory Guide:

- Homework Expectations
- Homework Guidelines

Bairnsdale Secondary College Document Name: Homework Policy Reviewer: Leadership Team	Review Schedule: every 4 years Date of last review: 25/5/2019	Page 3 of 3
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