

Homework & Independent Study Policy

Help for non-English speakers



If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Mount Clear College on 03 5330 1500 or mount.clear.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Purpose

To outline to our school community the Department's and Mount Clear College's policy requirements relating to homework and independent study.

Scope

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

Rationale

Mount Clear College has developed this Homework and Independent Study 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.

Definitions

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

Independent Study is revision tasks that students undertake in preparation for assessments, including exams.

Policy

At Mount Clear College all homework and independent study 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.

Year 7 to 9

Tasks at these year levels may total 30 – 90 minutes per night (2.5 – 7.5 hours per week), including independent reading.

Year 10

Tasks at Year 10 are expected to complete 2 hours per night (10 hours per week) and more during peak assessment periods.

Years 11 and 12

Tasks at Years 11 and 12 are expected to complete 3 hours per night (15 hours per week) and up to 6 hours on weekends during peak VCE assessment periods.

The types of homework or independent study that students at Mount Clear College undertake include:

- 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 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 and independent study 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 Mount Clear College are to:

- advise teachers, students, and parents/carers of homework and independent study expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework and independent study policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for teachers at Mount Clear College are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful
- 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 and independent study policy
- discussing these expectations with their parents/carers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework and independent study 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 independent study, 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 at home for their child.

Support for Students and Parents/Carers

Mount Clear 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 or independent study 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.

Study Hall is also offered to support students to complete homework/study after school with a staff member who can assist.

Related policies and resources

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

Review Cycle and Evaluation

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