



HOMWORK POLICY

PURPOSE

To outline to the school community, DET and South Oakleigh College's policy requirements relating to homework. The school community is defined as students, parents and carers and school staff at South Oakleigh College. Policy requirements define expectations and guiding principles in setting, completing, and providing feedback in relation to homework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting, monitoring, and providing feedback in relation to homework at South Oakleigh College.

DEFINITIONS

Homework refers to tasks assigned to students by teachers that are intended to be carried out beyond the normal hours of school. Homework is defined as theoretical and practical work that serves to augment, consolidate, and extend the classroom-based learning. Homework of this nature should be appropriate to the year level and most importantly to the individual student. That is provide suitable scaffolding and differentiation to support their learning and developmental needs, both academic and personal.

Homework can include set tasks, assignments, research, reading and pre-class preparation and should be clearly specified by the teacher. Further to specified homework tasks, students are advised to complete independent study which includes revision for upcoming assignments and / or assessments, consolidation and extension of knowledge and reading. Such independent work is grounded in best practice for student development through middle school and into VCE.

RATIONALE

South Oakleigh College has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the school council to support student learning and wellbeing. Homework and independent study play a significant role in supporting students develop the core school values of High Expectations and Responsibility. Homework requires organisation and diligence; demanding a consistent work ethic from which students can realise their potential.

The key aims of homework and independent study at South Oakleigh College are:

- Encourage students to review, consolidate and apply newly acquired skills independently
- Ensure students look toward future learning opportunities by preparing for lessons in advance
- Foster life-long learning, and the desire to embrace personal development through education
- Encourage and empower parents and carers to work collaboratively with their child

POLICY

Teachers at South Oakleigh College are expected to set homework tasks that serve to consolidate current and new learning, scaffold student development, differentiate as required and extend student skills. Homework is a critical tool that underpins the school values of High Expectations and

Responsibility, and therefore should be factored into all lesson plans. Teachers are required to record homework completion to inform and provide adequate and future-focussed feedback to students and parents. Teachers will support students and parents in understanding and completing homework as required, modifying and/or extending as required.

As a guiding rule, the amount of homework expected for student completion as hourly rate would be:

- Years 7 – 8: 5 hours per week (As a guide -1hr per night)
- Years 9 – 10: 10 hours per week (As a guide - 2hrs per night)
- VCE Units 1 to 4: 1 – 3 hours per subject per week

At South Oakleigh College all homework set by teachers will be:

- Clearly defined purpose and link to classroom learning
- Aligned with the curriculum
- Appropriate to the year level and, as required, the individual learners' capacity and needs
- Designed to foster development of independent learning skills
- Monitored by the teacher with appropriate and constructive feedback to be provided
- Where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents and carers to collaborate in the student's learning
- Extend student development and encourage High Expectations
- Foster confidence in student learning and develop an appreciation for the subject matter

The type of homework that teachers at South Oakleigh College could include:

- Completing consolidation exercises and/or investigative tasks
- Making and/or designing artworks
- Practising musical instruments
- Further reading to prepare for future classes
- Practising spelling words and applying grammatical conventions
- Engage in regular physical activity for health and well-being
- Apply language skills other than English
- Reading and notate English texts prior to class discussion
- Reading for pleasure and to foster life-long learning
- Conduct research into topics associated with set class work
- Revising and prepare for subject topics tests
- Applying new life skills within the home setting 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
 - writing a diary entry
- Engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
 - rehearsing a presentation with parent and carers, and seeking their feedback
 - interviewing a family member as part of a research project
 - sharing and exploring new concepts, thoughts, and ideas in family discussion

SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students, and their parents and carers. For homework tasks to be rewarding, productive and challenging it is imperative that everyone understand their obligations and responsibilities therein.

Responsibilities and expectations for educational leaders at South Oakleigh College are to:

- Advise and guide teachers, students, parents, and carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

- Maintain a guiding homework policy that is relevant to needs and expectations of the school and guided by best practice
- Student managers (Directors of Students and Heads of House) to work in consultation with teachers, parents, carers, and students when difficulties arise in relation to non-completion of homework

Responsibilities and expectations for teachers at South Oakleigh College are to:

- Set homework that is informed and guided by curriculum documentation and appropriate to the student's skill and year level, as well as age and ability
- Homework should serve to engage, consolidate and extend student learning
- Record and assess homework, and provide timely and constructive 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 and does not overwhelm
- Provides for, and encourages opportunities for families to engage in their child's learning
- Notify and engage in a dialogue with student managers and / or parents when homework is not completed by the due date
- Holiday homework should not be excessive in nature, nor serve to cover teaching not completed during the term. It should consolidate and extend existing skills and knowledge as the aim
- Teacher/Program Leader to assist students understand the school's homework policy

Responsibilities and expectations for students at South Oakleigh College are:

- Understand homework expectations and discuss with their parents and carers
- Embrace and accept responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within the teacher negotiated timeframe, seek assistance with challenges as they arise, and seek extension as required
- Utilise and incorporate teacher feedback into their own learning and development
- Use the diary to record homework tasks and meet deadlines
- Organising time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities, and part-time employment

Responsibilities and expectations for parents and carers are:

- Work with their child and the school to ensure a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities is maintained
- Consult with teachers about any concerns they have regarding homework
- Discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home
- In discussion highlight links of homework to:
 - previous experiences the child, parent or carers may have had
 - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
 - relevant services, clubs, associations, and community.
- Provide an area that is conducive to independent, sustained study.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

South Oakleigh College appreciates that students have different learning strengths, preferences, and styles and, as such will approach learning activities differently. If parents and carers are concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or are spending a long period of time completing their homework, South Oakleigh College encourages parents and carers to speak with the relevant subject teacher/s, Mentor Teacher, Heads of House, or Director of Students

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

Complaints Policy
 Statement of Values and School Philosophy
 Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
 Student Inclusion and Diversity Policy

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on September 2020 and is scheduled for review on September 2023.