

Home Learning Policy

@16 October 2023

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department of Education and Mullauna College's policy requirements relating to home learning, including homework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring home learning at Mullauna College.

RATIONALE

Regular home learning comprises of:

1. Tasks as set by teachers
2. Independent home-study undertaken by the student and
3. Further learning opportunities in conjunction with family and the community

Home learning is important for the exploration and consolidation of learning. It provides the student with opportunities to practise and internalise the knowledge and skills learnt in class, as well as enabling the student to develop independent study habits which are necessary for both future study and work expectations. Home learning also provides families the opportunity to engage with and direct a broader range of learning relevant to each student, beyond the school setting.

Mullauna College has developed this Home Learning 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.

POLICY

1. Tasks set by teachers should be:

- purposeful
- curriculum-aligned
- appropriate to students' skill level and age
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- monitored by the teacher for completion, for understanding and for feedback where appropriate
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning

This may include:

- completing any outstanding, or missed, class work
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- completing consolidation exercises, for example in mathematics
- completing investigation tasks, for example a Science practical report
- completing research tasks associated with set class work

2. Independent home-study undertaken by the student may include:

- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising spelling words
- practising times tables
- practising sports skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English
- reading background material for a subject
- reading for pleasure
- revising/preparing for tests

3. Further learning opportunities in conjunction with family and the community

- Access to news media and current affairs
- 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
 - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
 - interviewing a family member as part of a research project

The amount of home learning will vary according to student learning needs, year level and subject. To assist students in achieving a suitable balance between homework and recreational activities, the following pattern of homework/independent study is suggested:

- Years 7 & 8 Up to 6 hours per week (including 30 minutes of wide reading each day)
- Years 9 & 10 Up to 10 hours per week
- Years 11 & 12 Up to 15 hours per week

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 homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Mullauna College** are to:

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

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Mullauna College** are to:

- set home learning that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure home learning tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning
- balance the amount of home learning that is set to support 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 home learning policy
- discussing home learning expectations with their parents/carers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of home learning tasks within set time frames
- use the Mullauna Planner (years 7-9) or an electronic planner (years 10-12) to record and manage home learning tasks
- following up on comments made and feedback provided 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).
- ensuring sufficient screen-free time each day (including from social media/gaming) to receive adequate nightly sleep of approximately 9 hours per night.

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- Ensuring their child develops an effective home learning and study routine in preparation for senior school
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on home learning and recreational, family and cultural activities and part-time employment.
- ensuring their child has sufficient screen-free time each day (including from social media/gaming) to receive adequate nightly sleep of approximately 9 hours per night.
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete their work.
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the home learning.
- discussing home learning activities with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in conversation, linking home learning 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.

HOLIDAY LEARNING

Students in years 7 to 9 will not have home learning assigned over holiday periods, other than to read their English novels and view film texts for English.

Senior School students can expect holiday learning tasks that prepares them for further learning and should undertake revision/study to consolidate previous learning.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Mullauna College understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and home learning differently. If parents/carers are concerned their child may not understand the home learning tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their work, we encourage parents/carers to speak to their child's teacher.

To support students with managing their home learning requirements, the college offers the following:

- Weekly afterschool homework club
- Study skills training
- The school library is available for work completion and quiet study each afternoon to 4:30pm
- VCE study centre is available for senior school students each afternoon to 5:00pm

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website and via Compass
- Included in staff handbook
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights
- Discussed at student forums

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	16 October 2023
Consultation	School Council – May, Aug 2023 Staff meeting – July 2023 SRC meeting – August 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	October 2027