



Homework Policy

Summary

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1. Rationale

Rowville Secondary College understands that individual students' needs differ and that they have different aspirations and expectations. We encourage students to further develop and consolidate their independent learning skills by completing 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.

2. Aims

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

3. Scope

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

4. Definitions

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

5. Policy

Teachers at Rowville Secondary College are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that that are:

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

Below is an outline of the homework expectations for the different year levels at Rowville Secondary College. It includes expectations for how long students should spend completing their homework and is provided as a guide only.

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.

Years 10 to 12

Generally, students can expect homework tasks in these year levels to increase to reflect 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 VCE Vocational Major.

Students can expect to spend between 1 to 3 hours of homework per day which may include study periods and weeknights, and further study on weekends during assessment periods. Students' aspirations and planned pathways will have a significant influence on the amount of time spent completing homework or studying in the senior years of secondary education.

6. 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.

Rowville 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 and aspirations of students
- advising parents/carers of the college's homework policy
- offering opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning

It is an expectation that teachers will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- record homework on Compass
- 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

It is an expectation that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- regularly checking Compass for homework set
- discussing with their parents/carers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames or raising with their teachers as early as possible if there are difficulties in completing homework tasks within the set time frame
- following up on feedback from teachers
- seeking assistance from a trusted adult 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 an expectation 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
- communicating with teachers about any concerns they have about the homework tasks
- communicating with their child's Learning Mentor if the amount of homework is a concern
- ensuring students access their homework via Compass
- 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