

# Carwatha College P-12

## HOMework POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Carwatha College P-12

### PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and school policy requirements and expectations relating to homework.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Carwatha P-12.

### RATIONALE

Carwatha College P-12 has developed this Homework 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.

Carwatha College P-12 acknowledges the importance of homework, but also acknowledges that homework is just one small area promoting educational attainment. Carwatha College P-12 acknowledges the need to balance homework and learning priorities with student/family leisure time and other commitments.

### DEFINITIONS

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

## POLICY

Carwatha College P-12 acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Teachers at Carwatha College P-12 are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful. This may comprise of reading, practice exercises, incomplete school work, revision or extension assignments

At Carwatha College P-12 all homework set by teachers 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.

The types of homework that teachers at Carwatha College P-12 will include are:

- 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.

## Prep to Year 4

- In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.
- Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.
- Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings.
- Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

## Years 5-9

- Students in the middle years will be issued homework with increasing frequency, not exceeding 30 minutes per day in Grade 5 or 60 minutes per day in Year 9.
- Homework should include daily independent reading
- Homework may extend classwork, projects and assignments, essays and research

## Years 10-12

- Homework in the senior years is expected to increase in frequency and duration, not exceeding 90 minutes per weeknight in regular class time and not exceeding 3 hours per weeknight close to the exam period.
- Homework may be set on school holiday periods and weekends for senior students
- Homework will include any unfinished classroom activities
- Homework may include reading, research, assignments, revision, independent projects, etc

## 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.

Carwatha College P-12 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 providing them with a copy of the homework policy

- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- ensuring that upper primary students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

Teachers at Carwatha College P-12 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 and carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children.

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 upper primary 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 AND PARENTS/CARERS

Teachers at Carwatha College P-12 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 their Classroom Teacher or House Leader.

Carwatha College P-12 has in place a number of support programs and other offerings that students may attend to assist with particular areas of need or interest, including:

- School library activities and access during recess and lunchtime
- Wellbeing support program
- Learning support office support
- Homegroup program
- Homework club

Students may be referred to programs by their teacher in consultation with their parents/carers. For more information about these programs, please contact the office.

## COMMUNICATION

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

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2023
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	October 2027